

MacHome

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Mac OS X

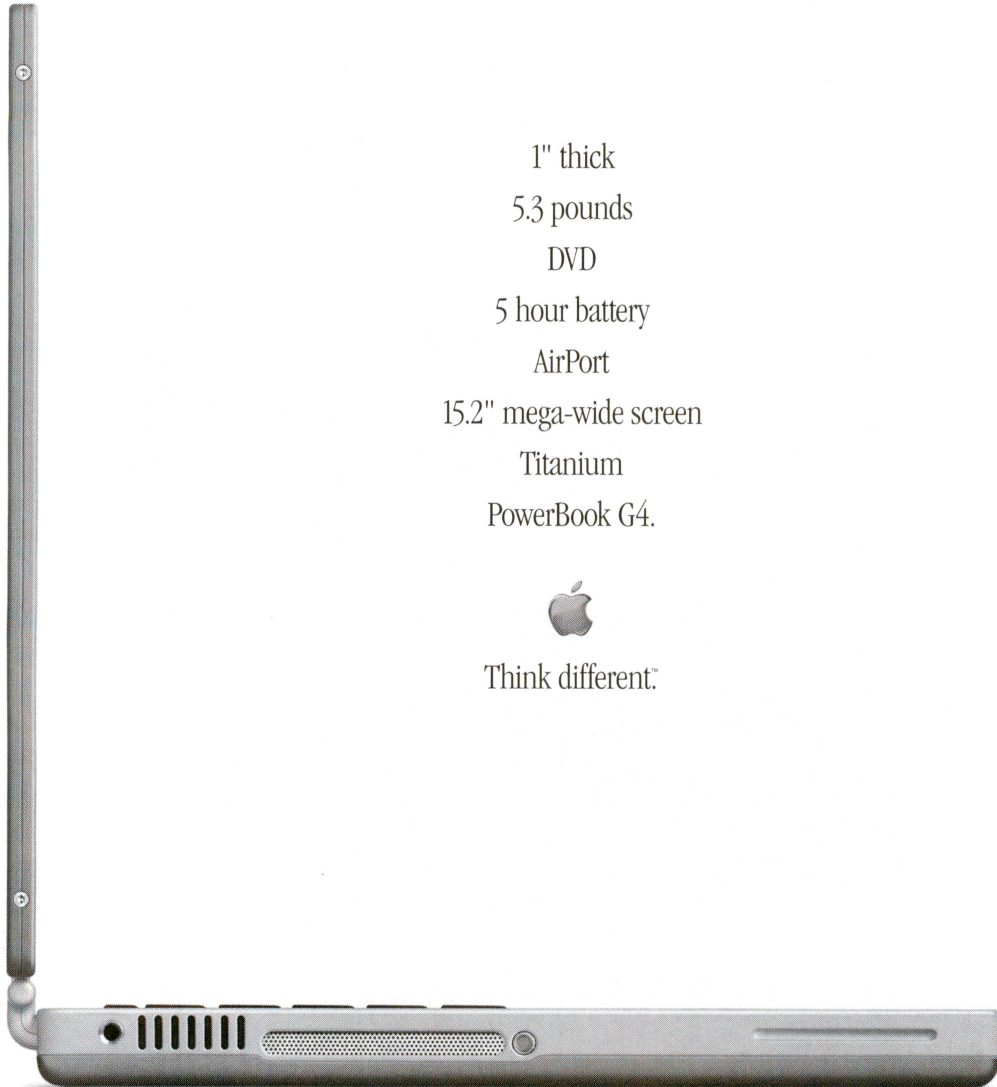
How to Install
Get Started
Secrets Uncovered
Keep It Running

Make Your iMovie Rock
Music, Sound Effects, and Voiceover

Burn with the Best
4 CD-RWs Compared

In This Issue

File Sharing Basics
Home Network Gaming
The Mac Workshop
Tips & Tricks
New Owners



1" thick
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DVD
5 hour battery
AirPort
15.2" mega-wide screen
Titanium
PowerBook G4.



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June 2001 • Volume 9, Number 6



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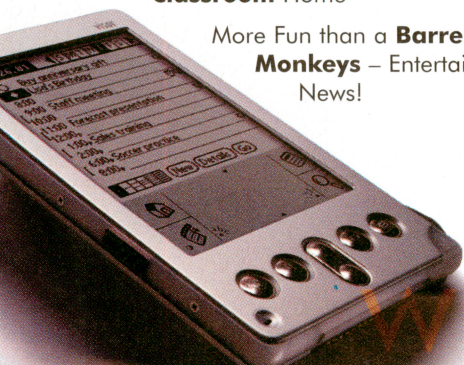


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Special iMac Buyer's Guide Section

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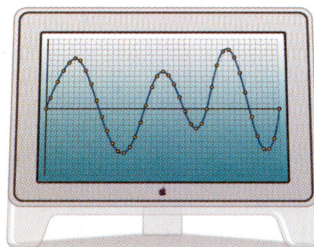
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★★★★★ Starry Night Pro

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- ★★★★ Formac CDRW
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Entertainment

- ★★★★ Riddle of the Sphinx
★★★★ Simon the Sorcerer II
★★★★ Shogo: MAD

Your Family

- ★★★★ Practica Musica
★★★★ KidPix Deluxe 3
★★★★ KidSpeak 10-in-1
★★★★ Language Learning
★★★★ The Little Prince

Rating System

- ★★★★★ **Mac-nificent.** You gotta get it. No flaws.
- ★★★★ **Excellent.** Recommended even if it has a minor flaw or two.
- ★★★ **Average.** Despite prolems still a worthwhile product.
- ★★ **Below Average.** Has serious flaws that limit its usefulness or fun.
- ★ **Poor.** Avoid this product at all costs.

5,000,000 and Counting

The news from the past few days has been great. Apple shipped iMac number 5 million this week, and Steve Jobs said it best: "Simply put, the iMac has redefined the consumer and education computer, ushering in several industry firsts including

USB, FireWire, desktop movies, wireless networking, quiet fan-less operation and world-class design."

He added that he's looking forward to number 10 million in a few years. A quiet round of applause is in order.



susan@machome.com

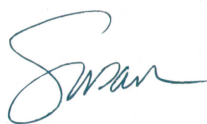
Apple also reported a \$43 million profit for its second quarter this week, handily beating The Street's estimates by 11¢ a share. As of press time, Mac OS X has been updated to 10.0.1; if you have Mac OS X you can download the update in the Software Update system preference. If you don't have X yet, visit www.apple.com/macosx and take a tour. Apple has more than a dozen QuickTime movies available for viewing, with topics ranging from the new desktop to the Dock.

Speaking of Mac OS X, our own Zack Stern was brave enough to install it on his everyday work machine (and various other unsuspecting Macs around the office; we called him

"Mr. Mac OS X" for a few days there). He passes on tips for a flawless installation beginning on page 12, then gets you started with the new OS on page 14. "Truly impressive," Zack said.

Have you installed it yet? We'd love to hear from you: send email to macosx@machome.com.

We take a look at the new G4 Cube this month, and give you a close-up of iMac: Blue Dalmation. Sandy's CD-RW comparison on page 20 is a must-read if you're considering purchasing one, and Chris's popular solution articles are expanded in the *iMac Buyer's Guide* section beginning on page 33. Enjoy, and let us know what you think: www.machome.com/feedback.



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lems, call 800-800-6542 Monday to Friday, 7:30 A.M. to 10:30 P.M. central

time; or write to MacHome Journal Subscriptions, P.O. Box 469, Mt.

Morris, IL 61054; or e-mail us at mhjr@mail.kable.com. Basic subscription

rates: One year (12 issues plus 6 CD-ROMs) U.S., \$34.95; Canada, \$44.95; for-

eign, \$54.95 (U.S. funds only). MacHome JOURNAL may rent its mailing list.

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Jargon-Free

I'm a charter subscriber to *MacHome* and thoroughly enjoy the magazine. Early on it was apparent that this magazine was not to be written for "techies," but for regular Mac users. It has stayed true to that idea through the years. Please keep it on that course.

Keep up the good work.

Thomas M. Bertch

Review Stockpile

As a subscriber to your magazine I wanted to suggest a feature that I have seen in many other magazines. Could you put a list every month in your magazine and on your Website of your highest recommended products in each category?

Weisheng Liu

We'll keep that in mind. Visit www.machome.com online to access the current reviews and more than a thousand back reviews.

Buried Treasure

I was at my local metal yard where I recycle cans, and I was checking out a pile of computer equipment that was bought at an auction. These parts had been there for at least a year. (We have lots of rain, and last summer, days of 100 degrees.) I had looked at the parts before, but that day I laid eyes on a 21" Apple Color Display. It was sitting on the ground in the mud. They let me have it for \$20. I took it home, opened it up, and cleaned the mildew off the case, I dumped water out of the base. I cleaned out a spider and a silverfish. The circuit boards were clean and it wasn't bad inside. I then went to an Apple swap meet and got a monitor cable for \$10. Well, it has been working just fine since the first time I plugged it in! I think this is a good testimony to the durability of Apple products.

Earl Fogler

Minor League Keyboards

I ordered the Microsoft Internet Keyboard (which was reviewed in May 2001 *MacHome*) for \$30.00 only to find it does not work on a Macintosh. Microsoft.com recommends the Internet Keyboard Pro at \$55.00 for a Mac. What gives?

Melissa Meyers

We did review the Internet Keyboard Pro, but swapped its name and price with its non-Mac cousin. The Internet Keyboard Pro is available at www.microsoft.com/mac/products/hardware/.

Retire with an iMac

Your March 2001 issue was the best ever. But I must say that there has not been an issue that I didn't learn something about my iMac.

On my 75th birthday, my children decided that it was about time that I had a computer. So they gave me an iMac and a HP DeskJet printer. Fortunately in my area, a cable modem was available, and I was off to the races.

I am constantly amazed at the ease I enjoy in operating my iMac and the hundreds of doors available to a new and exciting world. iMac is a must for every retiree. It provides countless hours of enjoyment, immediate contact with my far-flung family and many friends, and ability to perform countless necessities required in ones daily life.

John Wick

File Transfer Trick

Email is another way to transfer files (April 2001 "You Ask We Answer") to a new computer. You simply email the file to yourself as an attachment from your old computer, and then download and save on your new computer. Just alternate connecting both computers to the same Internet connection and email.

Nancy Reigle



Untangled Web

Congratulations! You finally have a Website to be proud of. I had just about given up on a modern looking site when, lo and behold, on Saturday, March 24 I got the shock of my life. As the page was loading I thought I was in the wrong place. Wow!

This is the first email I've ever sent to a magazine, but I just wanted to let you know you are really on to something now. Keep up the good work.

Wayne Smith

Corrections

The April 2001 NewsWire included a reference to an Olympus voice recorder that isn't Mac compatible. Olympus contacted us with revised information, and we both apologize for the confusion.

The May 2001 review of Thursby Software's MacSOHO included a reference to another Thursby networking product, DAVE. The correct price for DAVE at press time is \$149. **MM**

write to us...

Please write us with your comments! All letters are assumed intended for publication and may be edited. You can reach us by snail mail at: 703 Market Street, Suite 535, San Francisco, CA 94103, or by email:

letters@machome.com



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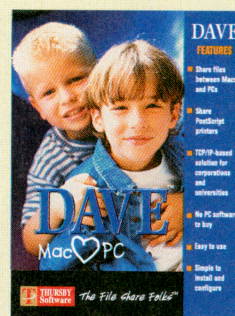
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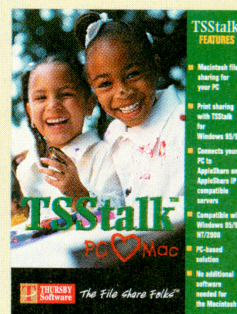
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between your Mac and
UNIX systems.



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files on any Mac workstation
or AppleShare server.

Olympus Crams Digital Photography and Video into Small Package

The CAMEDIA C-700 UltraZoom (\$799) has debuted with a 2.11 megapixel CCD, 10X optical zoom lens and a 27X digital zoom, an unusual combination in a camera

that's no bigger than a 4" cube.

Images are stored on a Smart-Media card; an 8MB card ships with the camera.

Fully programmable, the C-700 UltraZoom dresses down for point-and-shoot simplicity or gets fancy with full manual operation. It also



has a QuickTime Movie mode for capturing up to 62 seconds of full motion video with sound at 15 frames per second. The C-700 UltraZoom also records up to four seconds of audio captioning for each still image.

It uses Olympus USB AutoConnect, which lets the camera plug into any USB-configured computer without needing additional software.

The CAMEDIA C-700 UltraZoom began shipping in May.

Olympus, www.olympusamerica.com, 877-337-1507

Dance, Shoot, and Screen

Kodak's mc3 squeezes an MP3 player and a digital camera that also shoots video into a device that fits in one hand. A CompactFlash card stores music and images. Swap files between your Mac and the mc3 via the included USB cable. Or use an accessory cable to connect it to a TV, VCR, or stereo.

Still photos are shot at 640 x 480 resolution, which fits 10 pictures into 1MB of card memory. Video is captured at 320 x 240, with two capture quality settings to fit either four or 20 seconds of video in 1MB. A color LCD viewfinder lets you preview and review images.

The mc3 sells for \$230 with a 30MB memory card, or \$200 with no card.

Kodak, www.kodak.com, 888-368-6600

Samsung Makes Skinny Cheap(er)

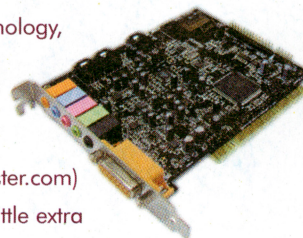
Samsung introduces the SyncMaster 570vTFT, a thin flat panel monitor for \$549. In a time of steep energy bills, it's interesting to note Samsung's claim that the space-saving 15" flat-panel display 570vTFT consumes approximately the same amount of power as a 25-watt light bulb, about 70% less than cathode ray tube monitors. The SyncMaster 570vTFT can also use an optional USB Hub (\$31) to connect up to 127 USB peripherals through the monitor.

Samsung, www.samsungmonitor.com, 800-727-7864

Live! Arrives

The Sound Blaster Live! for Macintosh (\$150) is now shipping. The new sound card lets you plug in to four-channel speaker systems, MIDI, and digital or analog noise makers. The Sound Blaster Live! also flaunts Creative's EAX technology, which powers customizable audio effects. Game lovers should check the Soundblaster site (www.soundblaster.com) for downloads that add a little extra oomph to playtime. The card is bundled with software that includes Creative Mixer, a program that finetunes audio inputs, and a variety of music creation tools like SoundFont Bank Manager, a digital sampler for MIDI users. Last but not least, there's a copy of Aspyr's Deus Ex in each box.

Creative Labs, www.soundblaster.com, 800-998-1000



Let's Hear from You!

Write us a quick note and tell us what you think of this month's issue! Visit us at:

www.machome.com/junefeedback

Palm's Newest Handhelds Are Hiding Something

Palm Inc. has added the monochrome Palm m500 (\$399), the 16-bit color Palm m505 (\$449) and the m105 (\$199) to its lineup.

The silver m505 and m500 might remind you of the Palm V, with one key difference — a new Secure Digital and Multi-Media Card expansion slot, which allows plug-and-play hardware modules to be swapped around.

Third-party modules are currently in development to support the new configuration.

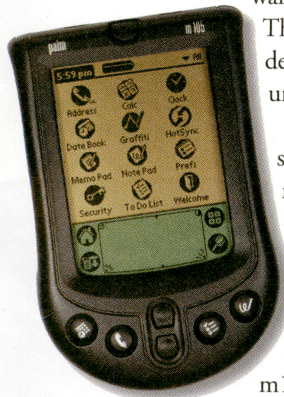
The m105 also has something up its sleeve. This upgrade to the m100 line not only ships with 8MB of memory, it includes Internet connectivity software. Users with compatible cell phones or modems and connector cables will be able to check email and enable web clipping applications. The m105 software also includes AOL for

Palm OS, a program that lets users access their AOL Mail and Instant Messenger accounts.

Palm fans will have another reason to spend quality time with their PDAs — Palm also announced its acquisition of eBook publisher peanutpress.com. With the deal, Palm gains over 2,000 titles from major U.S. publishing houses, including Stephen King's latest novel, *Dreamcatcher*. Two ebooks ship with the m500 and m505; *12 Valuable Ways to Use Your Palm* and *Tarzan of the Apes*.

The new handhelds are now shipping.

Palm Inc., www.palm.com, 800-881-7256



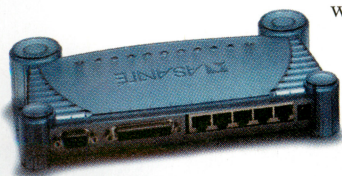
DSL Down? No Problem.

Asanté heard the cries of customers with DSL dysfunctions, and responded. The new FriendlyNET FR3004C Cable/DSL Router (\$169) combines a 4-port 10/100 Fast Ethernet switch with a back-up modem port, so even if your DSL service fails, you can still get online with an alternate Internet service provider if you've kept a modem around.

The router also includes a built-in firewall that lets up to 253 users share a high-speed connection while displaying only a single IP address to those outside the network.

The FriendlyNET FR3004C is now available.

Asanté, www.asante.com, 888-491-4067



Garage Not Just For Cars

Founded by former member of movie effects powerhouse Industrial Light and Magic, Alex Lindsay, dvGarage offers free tutorials on everything from creating simple but realistic objects with computer graphics, to complex visual effects. The site's Attention to Detail series strives to teach you how to observe and re-create the real world. Explaining why dvGarage utilizes a team of over 20 artists to create streaming media tutorials instead of using plain text for all of its training content, "We're focused on training people's eyes, not their fingers," Lindsay said. "We are visual artists, not English majors. Our training should reflect this."

dvGarage, www.dvgarage.com

Power Apple

In March, Apple once again displayed its commitment to education by acquiring Web-based student information systems (SIS) provider PowerSchool Incorporated. The Web service helps 2,000 K-12 school districts record,



access, report, and manage student data and performance in real-time. It also facilitates communication between home and school, keeping everyone in the loop regarding grades, attendance, and homework. By acquiring PowerSchool, Apple becomes the leading SIS provider in the United States.

PowerSchool, www.powerschool.com, 888-470-0808

Screamin' Demons

MacPlay's Fighter Squadron: Screamin'

Demons Over Europe should be in stores by the time you read this, after years in the making. This flight simulator puts you in control of a World War II plane at the heart of a heated dogfight. Choose from 10 aircraft, including the B-17 Flying Fortress, then take to the skies in this graphically realistic sim.

MacPlay, www.macplay.com

Handspring Goes to the Edge

Not one to be left out of the PDA race for world domination, Handspring launched the Visor Edge (\$399). The thinnest Handspring yet, the metallic Edge is less than half an inch thick. The slim silhouette is possible thanks to the detachable Springboard expansion slot that slides into a connector on the back of the handheld.



Also unique to the Edge are two built-in software programs. Fast Lookup accesses the address book via application buttons rather than stylus input. Silent Alarm makes the power button light blink when the time of a scheduled appointment arrives.

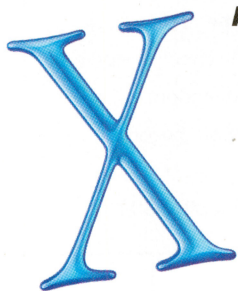
Shipping with 8MB of RAM, the Visor Edge is now available.

Handspring, www.handspring.com,
888-565-9393

Spotlight on Mac OS X

If you drop by Apple's Mac OS X site (www.apple.com/macosx, 800-692-7753) you'll find that AppleWorks, iTunes, and iMovie 2 have all gotten the royal X treatment. These updates won't work with the Mac OS X Public Beta.

Appgen Software Companies (www.appgen.com, 800-231-0062) announced that Moneydance 3.0, its personal finance manager, now sports the famous Mac OS X Aqua interface. The \$25 software package has a checkbook-style interface with a reconciliation tool, cleared vs. actual check account balances, and printed checks. It also features online banking with bill payment, investment tracking, stock information, and more.



Apple's driver downloads page

(www.apple.com/downloads/macosx/drivers) will keep your old hardware in tune the new operating system. Canon, Epson, Lexmark, and Hewlett Packard printers offer Mac OS X support. Drivers are also available for Keyspan USB Adapters, various Asanté adapter cards, and more. The list keeps growing, so check back often.

Real Software (www.realsoftware.com, 512-263-1233) announced that its programming application REALbasic 3 runs on Mac OS X. Version 3 includes a new animation engine, revamped database features, code editor, crash recovery and a searchable online reference. The Standard Edition package is \$150.

Microsoft (www.microsoft.com/mac) also made its first approach to the Mac OS X bandwagon by releasing an update to Office 2001 that eases compatibility between its suite of applications and the Mac OS X Classic environment. Get the 7MB patch at the Microsoft Website.

Fire in Your Pocket

The new 8X4X32X PocketCD-RW

(\$399) from LaCie is only a little bigger than a wallet, and sports FireWire and USB connectors. The drive ships with cables, AC adapter, three blank CD-R discs and Adaptec Toast.

The Predator (\$330) is the latest burner from Iomega. This 8X4X32X CD-RW uses hot-swappable adapters to support FireWire, USB and PC Card connections. Its software bundle

includes
Adaptec



Toast, MusicMatch Jukebox

and MGI PhotoSuite. The Predator ships with a FireWire adapter, a blank CD-R disc, a blank CD-RW disc, and an external power supply.

LaCie, www.lacie.com, 503-844-4502

Iomega, www.iomega.com, 888-516-8467

School Daze

Students struggling with one of the three Rs, have hope! Encore Software has released three titles for its new Kaplan Essential Review series — U.S. History & Government, Writing & Vocabulary, and Biology & Chemistry. Tutorials, practice tests, and assignments focus on core concepts in each subject. Students can also take diagnostic tests to pin down trouble spots and measure their progress. Each title costs about \$20.

Encore Software, www.encoresoftware.com, 310-719-2890

Barrels of Monkeys

The summer months present a tough choice for Mac gamers — play inside, or outside? The number of new titles just might keep you out of the sun.

First, *Escape From Monkey Island* is now available from Aspyr Media. The game reintroduces Guybrush Threepwood and his bride, Governor Elaine Marley-Threepwood. Back to Melee Island after their honeymoon, they find that Elaine has been declared dead and a politician, Charles L. Charles, is creeping up on her mansion and job. Fans of the game can look forward to the game's trademark humor as well as its puzzles and beautiful graphics. A card that can handle 3D acceleration, like the ATI Rage series or 3dfx Voodoo 3, is required.

Aspyr Media, www.aspyr.com, 888-212-7797

If a taste of European adventure is more your style, porting house e.p.i.c interactive is bringing TopWare's medieval strategy simulation, *Knights and Merchants*, to the Mac nearest you. The geography is make-believe, but the economic and political structures are based on those of Europe around 1200 A.D. You'll take on the role of a captain in the palace guard, forced to piece together a once-proud kingdom after it's shattered by conspiracy. The game should be out with the release of this issue.

e.p.i.c interactive, www.epic-interactive.com

Finally, if you're not tired of playing Viking yet, *Gathering of Developers and Human Head* have unleashed *Halls of Valhalla* (\$20), an expansion to *Rune*. For once, the original is not required to play the add-on. *Halls of Valhalla* spices the game up with new deathmatch modes, creatures, and multiplayer maps. GoD, www.godgames.com, 214-880-0001



Et Cetera

Rally X

Pangea Software has released a Mac OS X beta of *Cro-Mag Rally*. The 40MB demo, which lets you select any available video modes, is at MacGameFiles.com



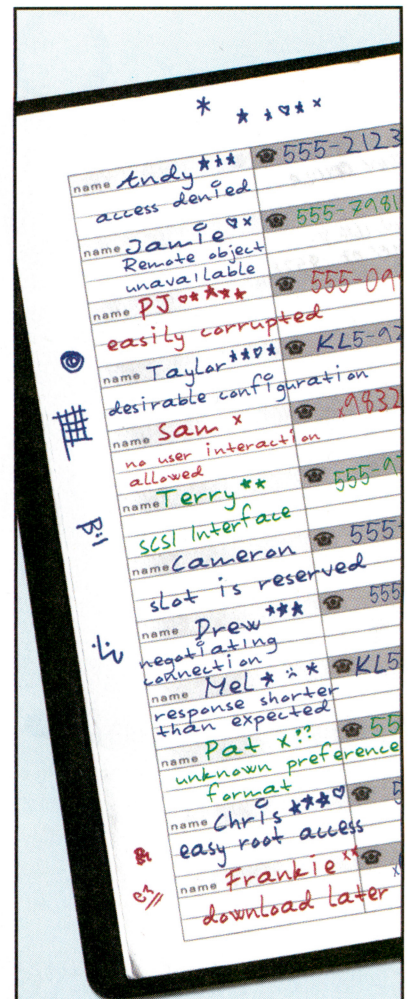
Deus Ex for Two

The *Deus Ex* Multiplayer Patch (35MB) is done. Reinstall the game from the CD before adding this multiplayer patch to avoid incompatibilities. Multiplayer mayhem is available at MacGameFiles.com

Shape Your Destiny

The fun and games won't end with the summer. *Geneforge*, a fantasy role-playing game from Spiderweb Software, the creators of *Avernum*, is due out by the end of the year. You play a Shaper, a member of a powerful magicians' guild. As a Shaper, you have the power to create and mold life to serve your needs. Now someone has stolen the secret to your power. Will you fight him? Or join him? The game promises a large and open storyline, which adds to its replay value.

Spiderweb Software, www.spiderwebsoftware.com, 206-789-4439



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MacOS X

It's Alive!

By Zack Stern

It's here. If you're holding a shrink-wrapped copy of the next fifteen years of the Mac OS, you're in the right place. We've uncovered invaluable tips and warnings to help you perform a flawless Mac OS X installation.

Do You Have What It Takes?

If you haven't yet picked up a copy, Mac OS X works with hardware released within the past several years. Specifically, you need any original G3 or G4 Mac except for the original PowerBook G3. These systems include all iBooks and iMacs. Computers upgraded to a G3 or G4 may not work; contact your upgrade manufacturer for details. Apple won't support those systems if they do run Mac OS X.

Mac OS X also requires 128MB RAM, but you may squeak by with 64MB if you're only using native applications that were built for Mac OS X. Memory is cheap; if your Mac has less than 128MB, pick up an additional 128MB for about \$60.

Clear some space on the hard disk, because Mac OS X wants 1.5GB for its installation. It'll add about a gigabyte of files to the computer. It'll use the remaining space for virtual memory, where free hard disk space is used in place of extra RAM.

Preparation

Mac OS X uses new applications, but it'll still support your current programs with Classic. Just an implementation of Mac OS 9.1, Classic bridges the new operating system with old applications.

If your Mac is running anything older than Mac OS 9.1, upgrade it with the included CD. To perform this installation, insert the CD, and restart while holding the C key. Follow the installation steps, and restart your Mac again.

Now make sure that your version of Mac OS 9.1 is up-to-date. Apple releases small upgrades to software between visible version number changes. Open the Software Update control panel and update your Mac OS. You may also discover that your firmware, the software that is inside your hardware, may need to be updated. Follow the provided instructions to make sure that the OS is current. After running Software Update once and installing its revisions, run it one more time. Your updates may have clued Software Update to new versions that it missed on the first look.

If upgrading from an operating system prior to 9 (like Mac OS 8.6), run a clean install by clicking the clean install checkbox in



What's in the Box?

Each copy of Mac OS X includes three CDs. You'll

get a CD of Mac OS 9.1, a Mac OS X CD, and a Mac OS Developer Tools CD. The 9.1 disc will make sure that your current applications work properly. The Mac OS X CD will install the new operating system and boot your computer if you have future problems. The developer CD will give anyone interested in programming in Cocoa, the graphical application creation interface, assistance in creating new tools. Finally, you'll get a Mac OS X booklet with information to get started.



the select destination disk screen's options. A clean install will create a new folder for Mac OS 9.1, and it will move all of your extensions into a folder called Previous System Folder. Add whichever third-party extensions you use to the new System Folder after the upgrade. Because the update to Mac OS 9.1 was significant on pre-9 machines, consider using Mac OS 9.1 as-is for several days to verify that all software is working properly before moving to Mac OS X.

To reduce the chance of problems, prepare your drive effectively. From an aesthetic viewpoint, Mac OS X files will be easier to navigate if you clean up Mac OS 9.1 first. Move everything off the desktop and into folders. Place all programs in the Applications (Mac OS 9) folder and try to sort your files into the Documents folder. At least create a folder for your current, miscellaneous items to distinguish them from new Mac OS X files.

Verify and repair your drive before installing Mac OS X. Use Disk First Aid in the Utilities folder of the installation disc. Norton Utilities (www.symnatec.com), TechTool Pro (www.micromat.com), or DiskWarrior (www.alsoft.com) can also repair any problems. Be sure to boot from the CD (and not your hard drive) so that these utilities can modify your System Folder. For best speed performance (though not required by Apple), defragment your drive with one of these commercial utilities.

Mac OS X is going to ask you for obtuse connectivity information that you should prepare while in Mac OS 9.1. You'll need to find your Internet and mail settings. If you use a modem, open the Remote Access control panel, and transcribe your login name, password, and phone number. Record the settings in the TCP/IP control panel with information about your IP address, DNS server, and other numbers.

Open your mail application, and locate your email settings. In Entourage, select Accounts from the Tools menu. Open your email account and copy the information for email address, account

ID, password, mail server (it may be called POP server), and outgoing mail server (it may be called SMTP server). Mac OS X will ask you to provide this information when you first configure it.

Insert the CD, and Hang On

Hooray! You're getting close to installation. Pop in the Mac OS X disc, and look through the Read Before You Install and Welcome to Mac OS X files. When you're ready (cue the fanfare), launch the Install Mac OS X script. This file should restart your computer from the CD; if you have problems and boot back into Mac OS 9.1, hold the C key just after restarting.

Follow the questions and options that are presented. On the Select a Destination screen, choose the hard drive or partition where you want the new OS to land. It can be the same place that Mac OS 9.1 is stored. Don't reformat the disk (which would erase it); if the installation tells you that you have to format it as HFS+, restart in Mac OS 9.1 to cancel the installation, then back up your files.

Start the installation, and take a break. The CD will add files for about twenty minutes, after which the Mac will restart. Pause a moment and imagine a world without crashes.

After restarting, configure Mac OS X with personal information. First register the operating system. Then add iTools account information or create a new iTools account. Add any other email and Internet settings that you transcribed earlier. Finally, set your time zone, time, and date.

You Made It

Now that you're up and running, see "Start Me Up" in this issue to get situated with Mac OS X. You'll soon be using this century's operating system with ease. **MH**

Forget to install Mac OS 9.1

first? Classic applications won't function. You may have problems upgrading to 9.1 after the fact, but it can be done. Select your old OS in the Startup Disk system preferences, and restart. Perform a clean installation of Mac OS 9.1 by checking the clean installation checkbox on the select destination disk installation screen. After adding Mac OS 9.1, restart into Mac OS X by selecting Mac OS X in the Startup Disk control panel. Finally, in the Classic system preference, select Mac OS 9.1 to tell the Mac that it's installed.

Do I need to back up?

Perhaps. You should always have a backup of at least your most important files in case you suffer a major crash at any time (see "Back Up or Break Down" this issue). When installing a new operating system, a loss of data is unlikely, but it's more probable to erase information than with general use. Regardless, make sure that you have copies of your important files on removable media.

iTools is Apple's free service for file and email hosting.

With iTools, you can have your own email address with a mac.com domain, store 20MB of files, and create a Web page that Apple will host (www.apple.com/itools). iTools is integrated with Mac OS X in Finder menus; the Internet is an extension of your Mac. To access your iDisk choose iDisk from the Go menu in the finder. Your iDisk will work just like a hard drive on your computer. Your mac.com email should be preset to work with Mail, a bundled Mac OS X email client.

Start Me Up

You've installed Mac OS X. Congratulations.

Now What?

By Zack Stern

After the big upgrade, start playing with your modern operating system. Open folders, click on menus, look at the new System Preferences. Generally, you won't do anything destructive unless you deliberately erase files; just pay attention to the switches that you flip while getting acquainted. Mac OS X will warn you if you're doing something that can't be reversed. Beyond your experimentation, try these ideas to personalize and get acquainted with Mac OS X.

Customize It

Like the first day setting the radio presets in a new car, spend some time customizing Mac OS X to behave the way that you want. From window displays to desktop patterns, make this operating system your own.

The Dock is a repository for open or favorite applications and documents. But perhaps its default settings get in your way; if you're on an iBook, for example, you'll want to make it smaller so that the Dock doesn't steal as much screen

space. In the Apple menu, select Dock: Dock Preferences. Experiment with the controls on this window where you can set the size of the Dock, and its properties, like if it expands when you pass the mouse over its icons. If the Dock takes up too much of your space no matter how small it is, click the box to Automatically hide and show the Dock. When you swing the mouse to the bottom of the monitor, the Dock will rise up from its hiding place off-screen.

Network system preferences get you online. A useful new feature lets you calibrate multiple ways to connect online, and your Mac will pick which one will work best from a descending list. For example, if you switch between Ethernet and Airport networks, this setting can simplify location management. In Network system preferences, choose Location: Automatic and then pick an Internet option from the Configure menu. Input your connection information into the tabs, and save at the bottom of the window. Next, choose Advanced from the Configure menu. Turn off unused connection options, and drag the list in order of preference. (If you need to add another option, click the New button.) Save the changes, and your Mac should be able to automatically change its location with ease.



Mac OS X supports multiple users so that each person that shares a computer can set it up to suit their preferences. Choose the Users system preference, and click New User to add another person. After completing the box, you'll have the option to turn off automatic logins. By default, Mac OS X works without a password, but if it's being used in a school or location with a lot of people, personalized settings and file management can be important. Click Yes to require each person to log in to the computer.

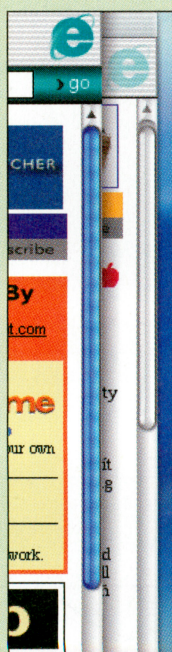
The Finder controls are available from the Finder menu's Preferences. Change icon sizes, arrangement, and the desktop pattern. Adding your own picture to Mac OS X in this window is a major step in claiming the new OS.

The Classics

Mac OS X employs a new "application" called Classic. This implementation actually uses your previously installed Mac OS 9.1 to run older programs. Classic eases the transition to native Mac OS X applications (see "Classic, Carbon, and Cocoa" in April, 2001); continue using current versions of Microsoft Word, Adobe Photoshop, or most other programs.

To launch Classic, just open a Classic application. You can also launch Classic in the Classic system preference. The Advanced tab can restart Classic with different extension sets as in Mac OS 9.1.

Since Mac OS X still uses the full version of Mac OS 9.1, you can actually boot into the previous operating system should you need to use features that aren't yet supported under Mac OS X. The Startup Disk system preference (or the Startup Disk control panel in Mac OS 9.1) selects which operating system to run, and can restart the computer.



To change the startup disk on certain Macs (most G4s, some iMacs and iBooks) just after hitting the power key, hold Option. Choose an operating system from the list of available startup disks, including CDs.

What Works? What Doesn't?

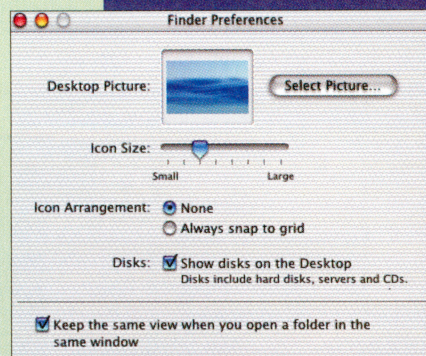
Apple has pledged updates to Mac OS X, so watch is third-party hardware compatibility. Mac OS X addresses hardware differently than in previous operating systems and may not work with some peripherals like all printers or scanners. Visit your hardware manufacturers' Websites for updates and support details.

But significant third-party support has been issued by Apple. Out of the box, Mac OS X supports dozens of printers and digital cameras. iTunes will send music to many popular MP3 players. And FireWire and USB storage that we tested (with the exception of CD-RW — look for an update by the time you read this) worked flawlessly. We could use Zip and hard drives without any software installation.

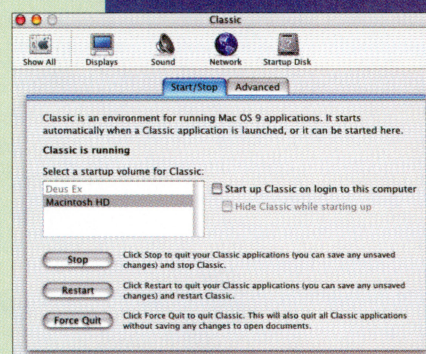
Remember, if something doesn't work properly in Mac OS X or Classic, boot into Mac OS 9.1 to restore its functions. This is the same Mac OS 9.1 as before.

The Little Differences

Mac OS X's Aqua interface adds more than just style to your computer; follow the visual cues to see what's happening on the Mac. The front-most window uses Aqua's blue highlights for scroll bars, but background windows employ silvers and grays. Also the upper-left stoplight colors are absent on background windows.



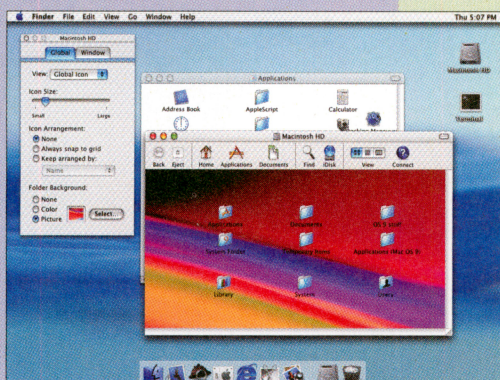
Finder Preferences are in the Finder menu. Change the desktop picture, icon size, and other settings



Classic system preferences manage where Mac OS X locates the startup volume for Mac OS 9.1.



Get help in the Finder's Help menu when you first have a problem. Type a question, and get answers.



Folder preferences available in the Finder's View menu can add a picture or color background to a folder. Neat.

Drag a disk to the Trash, and the Trash icon morphs into an eject icon.

The Dock can explain a lot about your system based on visual clues. Active applications have a black triangle below their icon. When launching an application, its Dock icon eagerly bounces up and down by default. Mouse over an application icon, and read its name.

Finally, special dock modules graphically display the display, airport, and battery status, while you can modify those settings by clicking on their icons.

When Mac OS X is "thinking," it lets you know with a new icon. The stop-watch is gone. Now a churning color-wheel signifies that an application is working. Even if one application can't

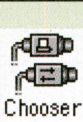
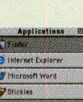
answer more requests, you can still use others, and need not wait for the color-wheel to disappear.

Mac OS X supports new naming management for long file names. You can name files with 255 characters, but those names will likely be truncated in the Finder. To see what's missing, move the mouse over a name with an ellipsis. After a moment, a window will present the entire name.

Keep Going

Mac OS X is different than previous operating systems, that's for sure. While there is a learning curve to get going, with a little persistence, you'll make it. If you have problems or questions, consult the Help menu for answers and ideas. Most of all, play with your operating system; see what you can discover. Once you figure out Mac OS X, its stability and interface enhancements will pay off. **MH**

Where are They Now?

Mac OS 9	I used to have a...	What did it do?	Mac OS X	Now I have a...	What does it do?	Where is it?
 Chooser	Chooser	Selected printers and network disks	 	Print Center Connect To Server	Selects printers Selects network disks	Applications: Utilities Go menu
	Desktop	The main interface for launching files and applications		Finder	Behaves like the desktop; only the name was changed	The backdrop of the computer
	Application Switcher	Switched open applications to the front-most window		Dock	Switches open applications, modifies system settings for displays, AirPort, and more, stores favorite items to be opened with one click	The bottom of the screen
 Control Strip	Control Strip	Modified system settings for displays, AirPort, and more				
 Launcher	Launcher	Stored favorite items to be opened with one click				
 Special Menu	Special Menu	Shutdown, restarted, sleep, and more		Apple Menu	Causes shutdown, sleep, and restart, and more	Upper-left corner
 Control Panels	Control Panels	Modified settings for networking, sound, and more		System Preferences	Control specific settings for networking, sound, and more	Apple Menu

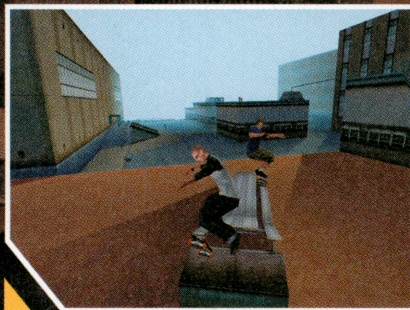
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Jodie
world traveler

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the *3* new **R**s

By Sandy Brundage

Faster than Ever, a New Class of CD-RW Drives Gets Graded by MacHome Testing

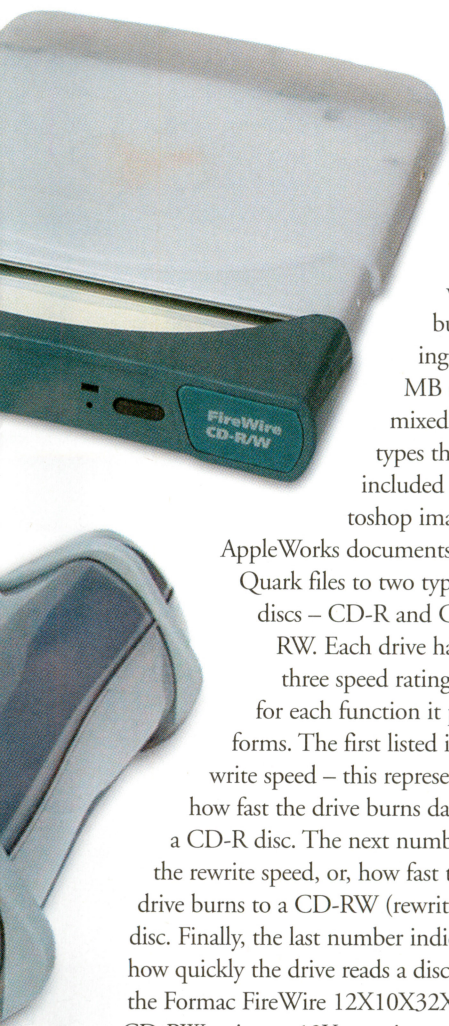
Write, rewrite, and read. CD-RW drives perform all three functions faster than you can read this article. We collected four drives and tested each to see who deserves a passing grade.

Today's drives are faster than ever; none of the tested models has a read speed below 20X, which means you can retrieve almost 200 MB of data from a disc in the blink of an eye. Another common feature is the use of Sanyo's BurnProof technology. This is a way of preventing buffer underrun errors. Buffer underrun errors happen when data is sent to the burner in an erratic stream. BurnProof makes the drive pause until a consistent amount of data is delivered, then the drive resumes burning the disc. The technology should also allow multitasking while the drive burns, but this isn't always the case. Success depends on what version of Toast you are using and individual drive quirks.

All four of the drives included FireWire cables and Adaptec's Toast software. The burners from Formac and VST draw power from the FireWire bus, so they don't need an external power supply. However, not all computers can provide enough juice to the burner, so laptop owners in particular may need to order an external power supply for those models.

Since we're stressing the importance of backing up in this issue (see page 32), we tested the





The Drives

The smallest, but slowest, drive in the bunch is SmartDisk's VST FireWire CD-R/RW 4X4X20X. If you're looking for a burner to carry along with a laptop, the slim silhouette of this drive along with its capacity to be powered by the FireWire bus — no external power supply needed! — makes it a good choice. It's also decked out in an attractive aqua and white, so you won't be ashamed to be seen with it in public. It might be the slowest drive, but a little over five minutes isn't a long time to wait, and the drive's portability makes the speed less of a problem. More of a concern is the lack of BurnProof.

Next on the speed train is Formac's 12X10X32X CD-RW. One of the best features of this drive, apart from the curvy silver case (alas, concealing the usual beige putty interior drive), is its ability to draw power from the FireWire bus. Anything that lets fewer cords tangle around the desk is a plus. It is a large, heavy drive, though, so don't expect to tuck it into the laptop case. It quietly took around two minutes to burn the test files. I missed having an indicator light to let me know the drive was running; without it, I couldn't tell when a crash occurred.

The Que! Fire CD-RW and the EZQuest Boa CD-RW are both rated at 16X10X40X. The Que! is smaller and more fashionable with a curvy graphite trim. It comes with a roomy carrying case even though it's a bit large and heavy to be truly portable. The boxy form of the EZQuest drive wasted the elegance of its silver case. Both require an external power supply, included with the drives. The Que! proved slightly faster on rewrite. It was also noisier, as it buzzed loudly when writing to a CD-R at 16X.

Making the Grade

Top honors go to the Que! Fire CD-RW. It's sturdy, quick and looks good without costing a fortune. But there wasn't a bad apple in the bunch. If you want portability, go with SmartDisk's VST burner. The Formac CD-RW runs off the FireWire bus and isn't much slower than the Que! or EZQuest drives. If you're still wondering whether to buy a burner, think about how important it is to back up files; can you afford to lose any information? Take advantage of today's fast, FireWire drives to protect your data. **MH**

CD-RW	Formac CDRW 12X10X32X www.formac.com	SmartDisk VST FireWire 4X4X20X www.smartdisk.com	Que! Fire 16X10X40X www.qps-inc.com	EZQuest Boa 16X10X40X www.ezq.com
	877-436-7622	941-436-2500		714-694-0031
MSRP	\$279	\$300	\$349	\$379
Dimensions	6.0 x 3.0 x 10.5"	5.4 x 6.8 x .80"	2.6 x 7.8 x 9.8"	10.8 x 8.5 x 2.8"
Write Time	1:40	5:28	1:22	1:22
Rewrite Time	2:11	5:28	2:12	2:28
Thumbs Up	BurnProof, multitasking, powered by bus, quiet, FireWire cable included	Bus powered, portable, USB optional, FireWire cable included	Excellent guide, quick, FireWire cable external power supply, and carrying case included	Sturdy, attractive, BurnProof, multitasking, fast, FireWire cable and external power supply included
Thumbs Down	External power supply not included, large, heavy, no indicator lights	External power supply not included, drive tray flimsy, no multitasking or BurnProof, slower speeds	Requires external power supply, loud buzzing when writing at 16X	Requires external power supply, big, heavy, inelegant design
Rating	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★

Woosh and



spoing

How to make iMovie rock

The three elements of audio — music, dialogue, and sound effects — form the skeleton that supports a movie. Music sets the

mood and focuses your attention on key moments, dropping hints with ominous notes, or skipping along with a happy motif. Sound effects extend viewers' senses into the movie; as someone picks up a hamburger, it's the deep breath he takes before biting it that conjures the scent in your memory as you watch.

By Sandy Brundage

Dialogue tells the story. Voiceovers, music, and special effects need to work together and with the visual elements, otherwise you'll end up with cacophony.

The main reason to add audio to your movie is that total silence is distracting, because it's not realistic. You can't close your ears like you can shut your eyes, so audio is a critical part of creating a compelling video. Right now for instance, the MacHome office is quiet, but the fax machine buzzes, a fire truck races by outside, and fingers tap keyboards. You could just record the ambient noise — but that sounds wimpy on video. Your audio track needs to be louder than life.

Name That Tune

So where does all this wonderful noise come from? With an editing program like iMovie, you actually have several choices for audio input.

Apple offers free sound effects and background music (www.apple.com/imovie/freestuff/audio.html).

Between tracks like Offbeat, Backbeat, Whoosh, and Sproing, there's enough variety to liven up any movie.

There are two ways to import an AIFF or MP3 audio file to iMovie. First, copy the file to your computer. Now position the playhead on the timeline where you want to add the sound. Choose Import File from the File menu and select the sound file you downloaded. It will appear on audio track 2 on the timeline. Or you can just drag the downloaded files into the iMovie Sound Effects folder, where they'll show up after you click the Audio tab.

Don't forget about your own music library! To grab a track from a CD, click the Audio tab. Insert the CD, then select a track, and drag it to the timeline. Click Record Music. If you feel like dancing to the beat of your own drum, a program like SonicFire Pro (reviewed on page 50) can compose the score.

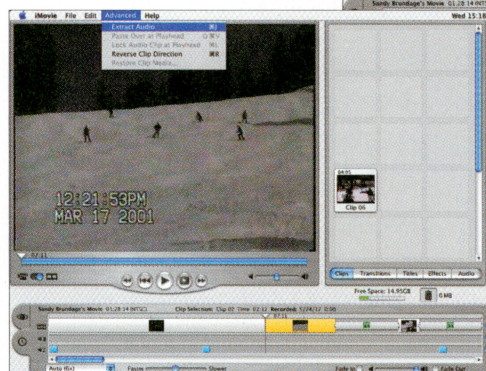
Everyone Can Hear You Scream

You can also record a voiceover from within iMovie. To create a voiceover, position the playhead on the timeline where you want to insert audio. Click the Audio tab. Now check Record Voice. When you speak, the level indicator should light up, telling you that the microphone hears your voice. Aim for a level of 50 to 75%. If nothing shows up on the indicator, you need to go to the Finder to check your sound input settings. Open the Sound control panel and make sure that the right input source is checked.

Decide whether you want to use an external microphone (mic), or work with the Mac's internal mic. An internal mic picks up any and all sounds nearby, including hard drive noise. This might not be a big problem; try it and see if you can live with the results.

To capture the best quality sound, consider an external mic. External mics, though, can be expensive, costing anywhere from \$10 to thousands of dollars. A \$50 to \$100 microphone is decent for home use. You get what you pay for, but luckily, that's not all that matters. Position in relation to sound source makes a

big difference. Placing the mic close to a sound source will give you better sound than dropping the mic far away, regardless of how much it cost. Keeping the mic close to the sound also cuts down on tape hiss if you're captur-



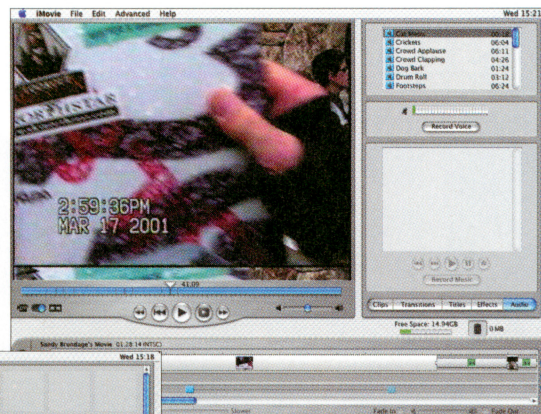
ing sound with a recorder.

Besides internal or external, you'll need to choose between mono or stereo microphones (See Cacophony of Acronyms.) A mono mic works for voiceovers. But a stereo mic is better for sound effects and music.

There's a sneaky way to record a voiceover if you don't have a mic, but you do have a digital camcorder. Just use the camcorder to capture the dialogue. Next, import the video to iMovie. Use iMovie to extract the audio from the video clip. (On the timeline, select the video clip, and chose Extract Audio from the Advanced pull-down menu.) The audio will appear in audio track 1 on the timeline. Don't worry if you mess up. The sounds were copied from the video clip, not deleted; iMovie then mutes the volume on that clip. So if you need it back, just raise the volume.

Turning Noise into Music

Now that you've got sounds, it's time to edit. iMovie 2 is flexible when it comes to editing audio tracks. For starters, you can place voice and music on two separate audio tracks, letting each be adjusted separately. Sound levels are tweaked with two volume controls. On the iMovie player, the slider at the bottom of the



Sound map In the audio panel above, add sound effects, music or voiceovers to a clip. The Extract Audio from Clip command shown on the left lets you separate the audio track from the video so you can edit it independently.

playback screen controls the playback volume, but doesn't let you adjust each clip independently. For that alteration, you'll need the slider on the lower right corner, which lets you lower background noise so it doesn't mask a voiceover, for example.

The Edit menu handles cropping, cutting, and pasting. To crop an audio clip, for instance, select the clip on the timeline. Adjust the crop markers so that they encompass the segment you wish to keep, and select Crop from the Edit menu. You can't crop a sound

Legalities

You can't sell movies that use copyrighted music, even if you own the CDs. But just like you can buy royalty-free movie footage (see Dotcom in April's MacHome), you can buy royalty-free music from companies like Instant Access Music (www.iamusic.com). Or try Sound Dogs (www.sounddogs.com). You can sample Sound Dogs by heading over to Apple's website and browsing the iMovie downloads.

effects clip. To reposition an audio clip, drag and drop it on the timeline to its new spot. Splitting a clip in two is also simple. Position the playhead at the point you want to split. From the Edit menu, click Split Clip at Playhead. If

Stagecraft

Joe Sparks is the mind behind the cult-hit Shockwave series *Radiskull & Devil Doll* (www.shockwave.com), which he describes as a "silly musical cartoon" created on a Mac G4 with a load of MIDI gear. Silly, maybe, but he's collected over 15,000 fan letters. He told us what it takes to kick it.

Q: How do you create voices and sound effects?

I draw something, then imagine what it sounds like. For voices, I do what I can with my own voice. For sound



effects, I combine recordings of whatever is available, and play with the recording in software like Macromedia SoundEdit 16.

The kitchen is a great source of sounds. I made snow footsteps by squeezing a bag of rice. I threw a wet dishtowel into a big mixing bowl to make the sound of fruit getting squished. When I can't make the sound, I look through sound effect libraries.

Q: What are some of the challenges you face in creating audio for your animations, and how do you deal with them?

Getting the voiceover recording and music not too loud or too soft. When recording, I work to keep the sound levels high for signal quality, but if I

get the audio too high, I won't have much room for effects like reverb. I usually record a little quieter than for CD or music production, and use software like Spark, SoundEdit 16, and Peak to normalize all the audio parts after adding effects.

Q: Why doesn't a line always sound as good during editing as it did during recording? How do you minimize that?

Sometimes I can't hear flaws, like breathing on the mic or a paper jiggling, while recording. The most common flaw, though, is the vocal performance — a weak delivery, slipping out of character, or turning the head slightly away from the mic in mid-delivery. I record each line at least 5 times, so I have a selection of performances to choose from.

Q: Are there any shortcuts you use while working?

Instead of trying to create a perfect soundtrack from start to finish, I break each vocal line, sound effect, and piece of mood music into individual AIFF files. Then I add the sounds one at a time to the animation. This may not be a shortcut, but it gives me flexibility, including the ability to drop something from the story without needing to re-edit and remix the whole soundtrack.

Q: What's a good starting point for a beginner?

The Web is a treasure trove of articles and tutorials. Most importantly, however, start working on something. Don't wait until you know everything there is to know. You learn the most by doing.

you want to wipe a clip out, select it, then choose Clear on the Edit menu. Unclear is an option if you make a mistake, so don't be afraid to experiment!

When the movie sounds good, lock the audio tracks to each related video clip to keep the sound synchronized with the action. Pull down the Advanced menu. Choose Lock Audio Clip at Playhead. You'll now see two pins in the timeline (one on the video clip, one on the audio) which indicate that those clips are locked together. To unlock, select the audio clip, pull down the Advanced menu again and choose Unlock.

Cacophony of Terms

There are phrases and numbers you'll encounter over and over during your audio exploration. Here's a field guide to the most common ones.

Sample Rate — A sample is an audio snapshot. Sample rate, then, is how often snapshots are taken and stored per second. To understand how sample rate affects the quality of the captured audio, pronounce "harmonious" at different sample rates. At a rate of one, you might say "Har..." At two, it would sound like "Har...ni...." Cranking the rate up to four gives "Har-mo-ni-ous," a much better representation of the real sound.

Mono or Stereo? Channel is synonymous with track. Each channel represents one microphone, or one sound source. So mono means one channel, one source. Two channels allows sound to come from two directions. Digital video allows up to four channels at 12 bits. Most analog video formats allow only 2 channels.

8 or 16 bit? Think of the difference between a slider type of control and a positional click control. A positional click control gives you only so many levels, say, 256 (or 8 bit). A slider control gives you much finer differentiation — like 65,536 (or 16 bit) possible levels. Use 8 bit if all your sounds are about the same volume and frequency. For CD quality audio, choose 16 bit. **MH**

Car Pool

At AutoNation, type in your zip code to see a list of available cars in your

By Carolyn Blackburn

Beep-Beep, Beep-Beep, Yeah

If you've struggled to rev up that clunker that calls itself a car, and then fantasized about drowning it in TurtleWax, you might want to explore buying another car. Read on for handy Internet destinations to help you search.

You Better Shop Around

"Guiding the car buyer" is an understated slogan if I ever heard one. Speaking for Kelley Blue Book, it modestly says it all. Other than a down payment, the online version of the little *Blue Book* is the best tool for



neighborhood. I'm not in the market, but if I were, where would I park it? My search brought up 11 cars for sale within 100 miles of my San Francisco digs. The site also has insurance information and trade-in values, plus a very nifty 360° interior view option. I've always wanted to test-drive a Jaguar, so I took a look. When I got off that cloud, nostalgia took over and I found myself inside a Chevy Impala — things have quite changed since I drove my Dad's old model in high school.

www.autonation.com



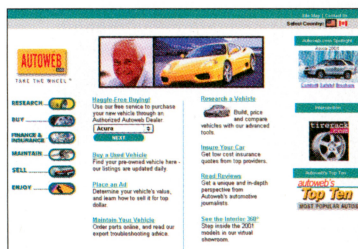
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www.autoweb.com



Car Dealer

Autobytel offers research jumping-off points, such as "New or used ... what's right for me?" and "Understanding loans," but the site is geared toward the information-empowered consumer. Just submit a Purchase Request when you're ready to buy and Autobytel will present an offer with low dealer overhead. You can also read advice before selling your old car — like what it's worth and how to improve its resale value. Sign up for free, and you can visit My Garage, a personalized spot within the site that offers perks like service reminders and repair cost estimates.

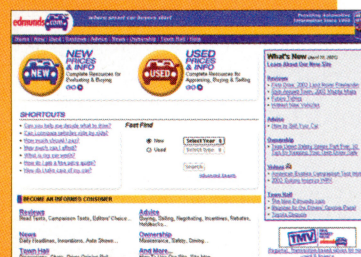
www.autobytel.com, 888-422-8999 x3050

Kicking Virtual Tires

Edmunds.com has helped a MacHome staffer buy a car and rightly so; it's a well-constructed spot for feature articles and reviews, car comparisons, and pricing information. (How much should you expect to pay for that new car? How much did it cost a dealer?) These and other secrets are spilled at Edmunds.

A favorite feature is the depth of the content and the manner in which it's presented. If you're an autophile, deep information will satisfy questions about horsepower, torque, and response. If you're a little overwhelmed by car statistics and the passion that people have for their vehicles, Edmunds presents even this technical information with explanation and background for any reader.

www.edmunds.com



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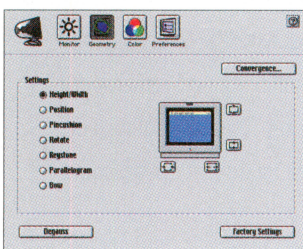
iTunes Wakeup Call

Do you have your Macintosh in your bedroom? Using iTunes and the Energy Saver control panel, you can turn your computer into the world's most customizable (and most expensive) alarm clock. The first step is to download iTunes at www.apple.com/itunes, and collect your favorite audio tracks. Once you've organized your music library, locate one of the MP3 tracks, and select Make Alias from the Finder's File menu. Now, drag that alias into the System Folder's Startup Items folder. Each time your computer starts up, iTunes will launch and play tracks from your library, beginning with the aliased tune. This can be a headache if you restart your Macintosh several times a day, but it shouldn't be an issue for most users.

The next task is to initiate Energy Saver's automatic startup routine. Open the Energy Saver control panel, and click the Schedule tab at the top. The first item listed is Schedule Options, and you'll need to check off the option for Scheduled Shutdown instead of Scheduled Sleep. This tells the computer that you want your Macintosh to automatically start up or shut down instead of simply waking up or going to sleep. The next item listed allows you set a time to start up the computer. Here's where you set your alarm clock. Check off the option to start up the computer and select your repetition preferences from the pop-up menu — weekdays, weekends, every day, or a specific day each week. Now, set the wake up time desired (for example, 7:30 AM). Once you close the Energy Saver control panel, select an appropriate volume, and you're all set! The computer automatically starts up the next morning and plays tracks from your music library to wake you up. Just don't forget to shut down your Macintosh the night before — your computer can't automatically start up if it's already on. Requires iTunes 1.1 and Mac OS 9.

Broaden Your View

Own an iMac or Power Macintosh? You've probably noticed that the image on your display has a wide black margin around it. Apple intentionally contracts the screen size on its displays to ensure the best possible image quality. That's not to say there is anything wrong with the edge of your display. In fact, you might be able to expand your visible image without any observable distortion.



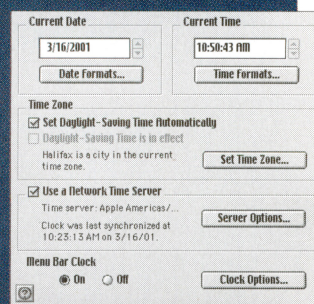
Open your Monitors Control Panel, and click the large Geometry button at the top. The first item to adjust is the height and width of the display. Click

the buttons adjacent to the monitor illustration to incrementally expand your screen image both horizontally and vertically. The next step is to properly position the image. Chances are good you'll need to center the image once you've expanded it. Click Position and use the display controls to move the image up, right, down, and left until it's centered. You might have to go back to the Height/Width control for further adjustments. Finally, you can use the Rotate and Pincushion tools to alter the screen image's orientation and edge curvature.

It's possible that the screen expansion might not work out. That's okay. If ever you feel that your original screen image was better than your modification, open the Monitors control panel, click the Geometry button and then click the Factory Settings button in the lower right corner. Your display will return to its original state. (Note that you must perform an adjustment for each resolution.) Requires Mac OS 8.5 or better.

Always On Time

Did you know that your Mac can tell time all by itself? With an Internet connection, your Macintosh can use a network time server to ensure it always has the right time. Open the Date & Time control panel. The first task is to select your time zone. Move down to the Time Zone box and check off the option to Set Daylight-Saving Time Automatically. Click the Set Time zone... button, select your city (or



the nearest one in your time zone), and click OK to return to the control panel. The third box listed allows your Macintosh to poll a time server. Check off the option to Use a Network Time Server, and close the control panel. Your Mac will now synchronize its clock at regular intervals.

Did you know...

There are more than **18,000 products** for **your Macintosh?** Find them all at Apple's Macintosh Products Guide Website:

<http://guide.apple.com/usindex.html>

Mac OS Update Watch

AirPort 1.3

Apple's latest revision to its wireless networking software includes support for Point-to-Point Protocol over Ethernet required by some Internet service providers. Other new features include AppleScript functionality and better interoperability with third-party devices. The software requires Mac OS 9 and can be found at <http://asu.info.apple.com/swupdates.nsf/artnum/n12021> (7MB).

iTunes 1.1

This update to Apple's MP3 player software rolls in support for over 25 external CD recorders. iTunes 1.1 requires Mac OS 9 and can be downloaded at <http://asu.info.apple.com/swupdates.nsf/artnum/n12001> (3.2MB).

Disc Burner 1.01

Apple's Disc Burner is a simple utility that allows iMacs and Power Macintoshes with built-in CD records to create

data CDs. It now supports over 25 third-party CD recorders. You can find the software at <http://asu.info.apple.com/swupdates.nsf/artnum/n12018> (4MB).

iMovie 2.0.3

This update to Apple's iMovie video editing software includes stability and performance enhancements and allows the application to export to iDVD. The software requires iMovie 2.0 and Mac OS 9.1, and can be downloaded at <http://asu.info.apple.com/swupdates.nsf/artnum/n12002> (2MB).

Mac OS 9.1 Update

Apple's long awaited update to Mac OS 9 improves the stability of the Mac OS and rolls in expanded support for iTools and Multiple Users.

Sherlock 2 now features an entertainment channel, and the Finder has gained a new Windows menu to ease navigation through crowded desktops. The update requires Mac OS 9 and can be downloaded from www.info.apple.com/support/macos9/9.1download.html (70MB or 15 segments of 4.6MB). The update is also available on CD for \$20; visit www.apple.com/macos/ for more information.

Did you Know?

Holding down the control key and clicking the mouse presents a contextual menu. Control-clicking on a document in the Finder allows you to open the item, toss it in the trash, change its label, duplicate it, or even make an alias. Control-clicking a word in Microsoft Word allows you to change its font, adjust the paragraph, and even get synonyms. Try control-clicking in all your applications to find more convenient shortcuts! Requires Mac OS 8.5 or better.

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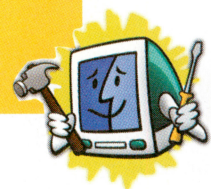


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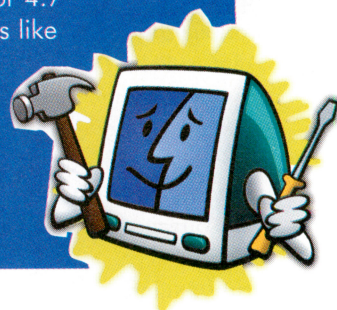


The Mac Workshop

By Sandy Brundage

What You'll Need

1. Netscape Communicator 4.7
2. A variety of email clients like Eudora, Hotmail and Outlook Express
3. A Web page that can store any images you want to put in the newsletter



Hitting the Links

How to Make an HTML Email Newsletter

Like the difference between a black and white photo and a Technicolor snapshot, HTML adds color to your email newsletter, making it more memorable and fun to read. It also gives readers a way to instantly access online information.

But not all of your readers have an email program that displays HTML. AOL 5.0 users, for example won't be able to admire your artistry. Also, those

colorful graphics make the file larger, which means a longer download time for the audience. But there is a way to keep everyone happy — why not send out a newsletter that's both plain-text and HTML by taking advantage of MIME (Multipurpose Internet Mail Extension)? MIME is already a part of your email program; it's a standard protocol that lets you email different types of content, like a favorite MP3 or a photo of your kids.

Here's how to create a newsletter that will look sharp in both plain text and dressed up with HTML:

Step 1 Open Netscape Navigator. I used version 4.7 for this workshop. Now open a new page in Composer, Netscape's HTML editor, by selecting Composer from the pull-down menu under the heading Communicator.

Step 2 Use Composer's design commands to lay out your newsletter. The Format menu will let you experiment with different fonts and text styles so your plain-text readers will get a newsletter that looks great too. Use Composer's Tools menu to Check Spelling.

Step 3 To add graphics, choose Image under the Insert pull-down menu in Composer, and enter the URL of the image.

Images for the newsletter must be online, stored perhaps in your Apple iDisk (www.apple.com/itools), or else your readers won't be able to see them.

Be careful when selecting the content to include in the newsletter. Sending a digital photo album of product shots via email, for example, is a breach of Internet etiquette because of how big the file will be. A better option would be to create a

Web page and email only the URL. For a newsletter, include one key image and use text for the rest of the content.

Step 4 When you're done, save the file. Go to the Finder, and highlight the newsletter file's icon. Choose Get Info from the Apple menu and make sure the file size is below 30 kb so that it doesn't overwhelm readers' mailboxes.

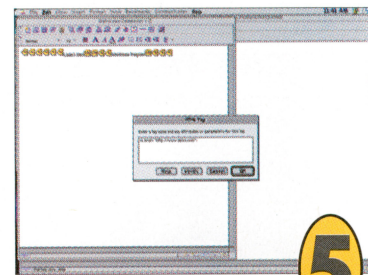
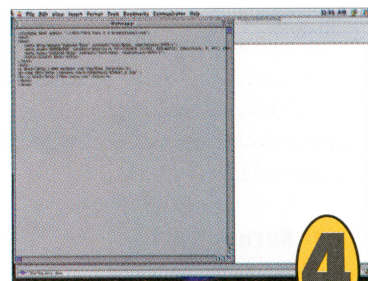
If the file is overweight, remove images to cut it down to size.

Step 5 Now you're ready to add the HTML tags. Open the file again in Composer. Click Page Source on the View menu. Don't panic if you don't know HTML — you don't really need to. Now from the Edit menu, Select All, and Copy.

Step 6 Open a fresh page in Composer. Choose HTML Tag on the Insert menu. Paste the code you just copied into the pop-up window. Now highlight and Cut everything after the first set of angled brackets (<).

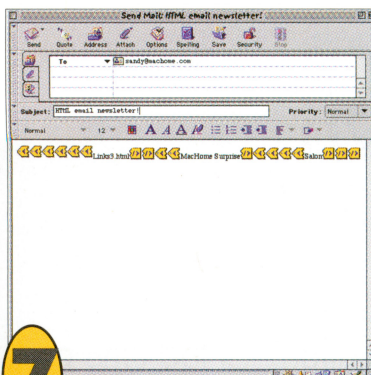
For example, if my code says, "<a href=<http://www.machome.com>>MacHome Surprise", I need to Cut "MacHome Surprise." Now click Done. You'll see a canary yellow icon appear on the Composer page. To make MacHome Surprise the link text, type out the phrase right after the new tag icon. Select Insert HTML Tag again. Paste. In our example, this time I would see "MacHome Surprise," and I'll need to cut "MacHome Surprise" to leave only the "."

Repeat until all of the copied source code for the newsletter has been entered. Preview the results in Navigator by clicking



the ship wheel icon in the toolbar.

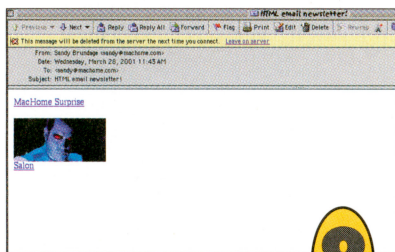
Save the Composer file. Add ".HTML" to the filename. From the Edit menu, Select All, then Copy. It's time to export and email the newsletter!



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same as it did in Composer, showing the bright yellow HTML tag icons and your link text.

Step 8 Enter your own address in the To field and send to test the newsletter. Then open the message with different email clients, like Eudora and Outlook Express to double-check the results. Snag demos of these clients at www.downloads.com.



8

Once testing is over, send out the news! It's not polite to send HTML email to anyone who doesn't want it. Poll your recipients ahead of time to get permission.

HTML Gobbledy Gook Translated

You don't need to understand the source code to use this workshop, but wouldn't it be great if you did? Here are 10 common HTML tags.

- `<a href="URL">` The first step in displaying a hyperlink within your document.
- `</a>` Indicates where the text for the hyperlink ends.
- `` Retrieves an online image for display within the document
- `<b>` Bolds text. For italics, use `<i>`
- `</b>` Stops bold (`</i>` to end italics)
- `<html>` Used at the top of a document to indicate that HTML code follows
- `</html>` Shows where HTML code stops
- `<p>` Starts a new paragraph. `</p>` ends it
- `<br>` Creates a line break

Step 7 From the File menu, select New, then choose Message to open Netscape Navigator's email client. In Message Composition, click the Options icon in the toolbar. Pull down the Format menu and choose Send as Plain Text & HTML. Then Paste the copied data into the body of the email. It should look the

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Back Up or Break Down

Do You Know Where Your Data Is?

We insure cars and homes, but not information. It's too time-consuming, maybe. We forget. But if you have anything at all worth saving — and who doesn't? — you need to back up. Plus, if you're about to make major system changes (like installing Mac OS X), having a complete backup makes the risk easier to swallow.

Tape It Tape drives, like those made by Seagate (www.seagate.com) are an economical, reliable method for a small business. Models can hold many gigabytes of data on a single tape cartridge, and with a USB or FireWire connector, back up quickly. Having an entire drive saved makes recovering from a bad crash easier because you'll recover all of your applications and settings

without reinstalling software from CDs.

An 8GB tape drive like the portable TapeStor Travan costs around \$329. Cartridges cost about \$28. You'll need to keep the cartridges in a safe place, though, and have a tape drive handy to restore files.

Zip It A Zip drive (www.iomega.com) is convenient. But it works better for backing up files rather than drives. A Zip drive like SmartDisk's VST FireWire 250MB drive (www.smartdisk.com) costs \$290. Backing up only select files is faster and needs less storage space than duplicating your entire drive, but piecemeal backups won't rebuild applications from ground zero.

Burn It CD- or DVD-recordable drives like the Que! Fire CD-RW (www.qps-inc.com)

are getting popular as a way to backup files. While expensive at \$300 to \$400, they can write 650MB on CDs or gigabytes on DVDs. The media is relatively cheap (a dollar for a CD or \$10 for a DVD), and most burners are capable of rewriting a disc, extending your cost-efficiency. Plus you can use the drives for other activities, like listening to audio CDs.

Clone It Finally, consider external hard drives. Hard drives keep getting smaller and faster — SmartDisk's VST FireWire 8GB drive (\$310) fits in a pocket. But the same problems that can wipe out your computer's internal hard drive can wipe out an external drive. And once the drive is full, you'll need a whole new drive.

Log It If juggling drives or media isn't convenient, use online storage. Apple's iDisk (<http://itools.mac.com>) gives you 20MB for free. Xdrive (www.xdrive.com) and iBackup (www.ibackup.com) charge \$5 a month for 100MB. You can then access your files from any computer with an Internet connection. But if an online service goes out of business, you could lose access to your data without warning.

Just Do It Automate backups with software like Dantz Retrospect Express (www.dantz.com, \$50), which takes the hassle out of scheduling and works with all of the removable media we just discussed.

No matter what type of Mac you have, there's a way to back up. And once you decide on a method, it'll take just as little time to keep your data safe as it takes to buckle a seatbelt. **MH**



News and Reviews for All iMacs and New Macs

iMac

www.imacguide.com

Buyer's Guide

The iMac Authority

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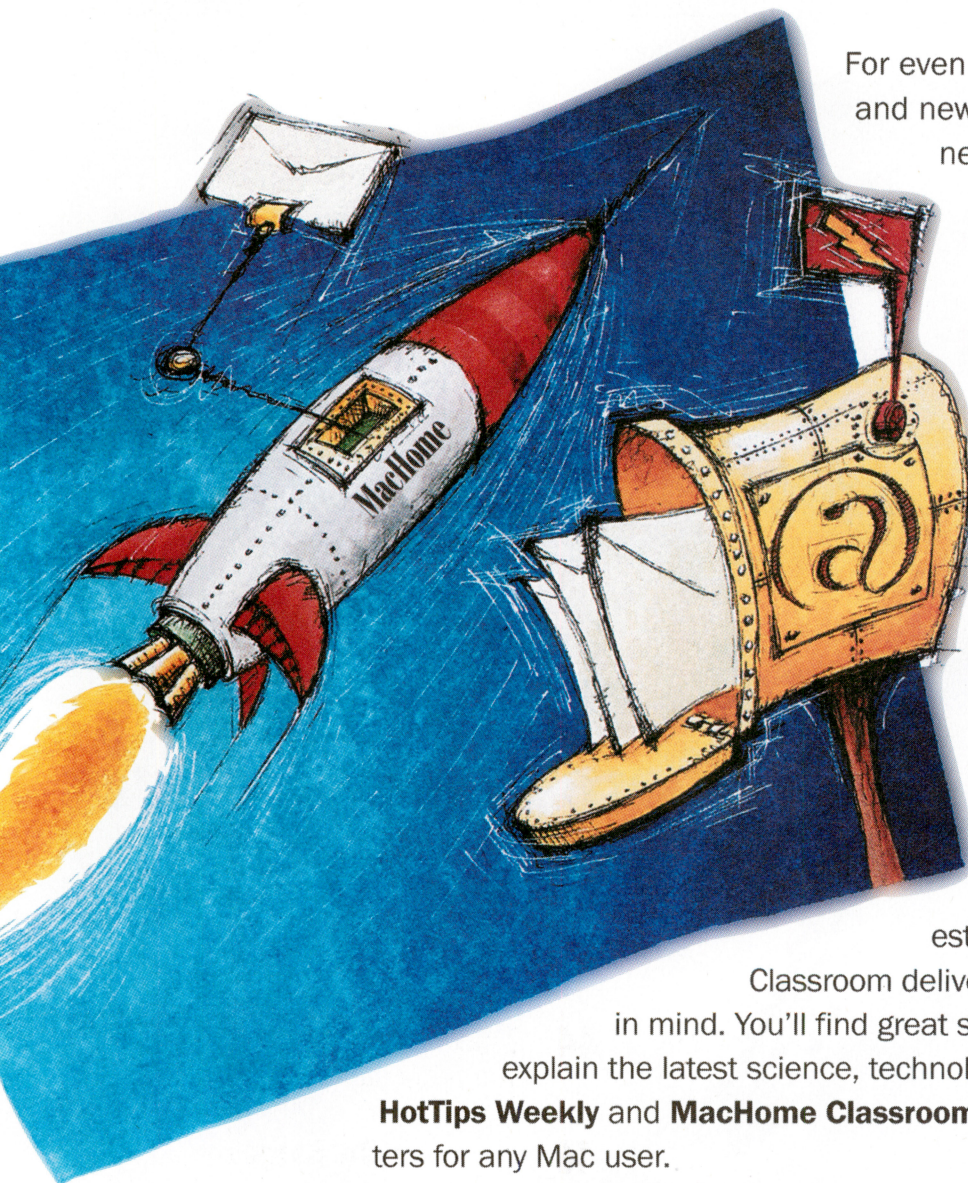
Hollywood Gets Wired

May-June 2001

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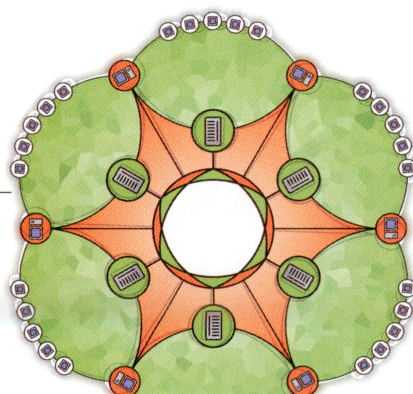


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On Ramps



The Parent Trap

"Chris, we're buying a computer!" The words were bewildering. I paused for a moment and recalled the evening news broadcast. No, there'd been no reports of a massive ice storm hitting the haunted halls of Hell. And yet my mother stood there, proudly proclaiming that she and my father were buying a computer of their very own.

My parents have largely ignored the computing revolution of the past twenty years, despite the fact I have built a career using computers to write and illustrate. Dad has long felt that computers are a waste of time. Although not your typical grumpy old man, he's been very jaded by his experience working at a local industrial facility. He came to believe the benefits of computers were easily outweighed by the steep learning

curve and need for regular maintenance. Mom's interest, meanwhile, was once limited to an occasional desire to practice her typing skills. "Chris," she'd begin with a silly grin, "can you set up your computer so I can play typing?" I'd groan, open up Microsoft Word, and leave the room.

In recent years, however, my mother has had a much more positive experience with computers at work. She's attended several training sessions for work-related applications, and she's become somewhat of an expert with a web browser. Of course, all her training has been on a Windows-based PC.

After my mother revealed her intents, I bowed my head in thought. Dare I ask her what computer she wants to buy? Will she even ask me for advice? Do I even want to be a part of this? Slowly, I looked up, doing my best not to appear eager, suspicious

or worried. "So..." I hummed, "Have you thought about what you want for a computer?" Inside I cringed. Somehow, I knew what was coming next and I braced myself. "Well, your father wants an IBM PC."

I should note that my parents love to drive me bananas. I guess there's just something about watching my brain implode that amuses them. Maybe it's the way my eye twitches, or how that nifty vein appears on my temple and pulsates. I recall an incident eight years ago where my mother insisted the PC support professional at her office could upgrade my sister's aging Macintosh LC to an Intel 486 system. It took weeks for my eyes to roll forward again.

This time, however, I was prepared for the inanities. "Oh, well, that's a good choice" I said. "I know someone who can recommend a good model, so let me know if you want to talk to him." My mother's grin disappeared. "Oh, okay, I'll tell your father," she said, and walked away. It wasn't long before she appeared again. With an almost childlike innocence, she excitedly cooed "I want the Blue Dalmatian! Can you order one for me?"

It's Monday now, and the iMac is expected within the hour. Mom's taken the day off work to wait for the arrival of her first computer. It's certainly a momentous occasion. I can only hope it opens as many doors for her (and my father) as it has for me.



chris@machome.com

A stylized, handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Chris McVeigh'.

Chris McVeigh
Editor

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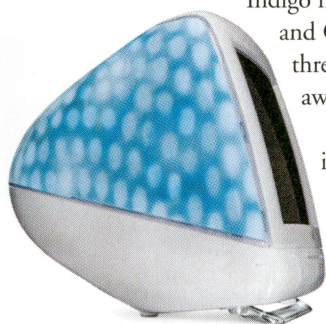
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Apple's Groovy New iMacs

At February's Macworld Expo Tokyo, Steve Jobs unveiled a startling revision of the iMac product line. The most obvious change was the computer's new casings and colors. Dumping its Ruby, Sage, and Snow offerings, Apple has adopted two cool kid-friendly designs: Blue Dalmatian and Flower Power. These color schemes have to be seen up close to be appreciated. No longer transparent, the cases are layered in translucent graphics with depth and texture, offset with the familiar ice bottom half.



Indigo has remained as an option for the low-end model, and Graphite is now reserved for the fastest of the three configurations. All models ship with Apple's award-winning Pro Keyboard and Pro Mouse.

But don't let the cases fool you – the most radical revisions are under the hood. Not only do all the iMacs now feature two FireWire ports for high-speed media transfers, they have received a significant speed boost, too. The \$899 base model features a 400MHz G3 processor, while the \$1,199 “Faster” model is 500MHz, and the \$1,499 “Fastest” model is a screaming 600MHz! The Faster and Fastest models ship with a built-in slot-loading CD-RW drive that allow you to burn your own CDs, so you can make music mixes, create backups, and share files with ease. And if you like to play games, the middle and high-end models ship with a Rage 128 Ultra 3D graphics processor with 16MB of video memory for smooth gameplay.

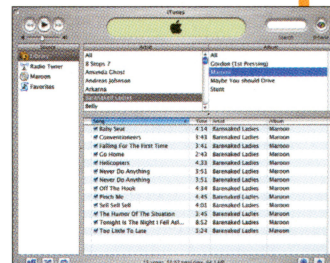
Other changes to the Mac product lineup include the addition of a CD-RW drive to the Power Macintosh G4 Cube. The original model has dropped to \$1,299 (450MHz with 64MB RAM and DVD) and a new mid-range option is \$1,599 (450MHz with 128MB RAM and CD-RW). A high-end model is now offered with a 500MHz processor, 256MB RAM, CD-RW, 60GB drive, and the NVIDIA GeForce 2MX 3D card for \$2,199. *Apple, www.apple.com/hardware/*

Mac OS X Finally Sets Sail

After years of anticipation, Apple has launched its gorgeous, powerful new operating system. Combining the power of Unix (a time-tested and lighting-fast OS that drives many servers and supercomputers) with a stunning new interface known as Aqua, Mac OS X is intended to bridge the gap between a pro-level OS and everyday computing tasks. Although the refined interface will be instantly familiar to Mac veterans, Mac OS X includes some radical changes and improvements in the way you interact with your computer and files. Mac OS X isn't for the faint of heart, however — the many changes in appearance and function and an initial lack of Mac OS X-aware software will pose a challenge to less-experienced users. Mac OS X is \$129 from the Apple Store, and requires a built-in G3 processor (upgraded systems are not supported) and at least 128MB of RAM. *Apple, www.apple.com/macosex/*

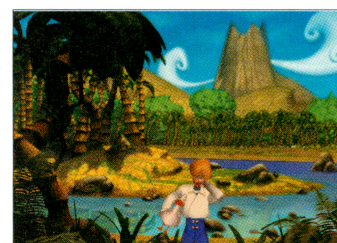
iTunes Parties with Other Drives

The original version of Apple's iTunes worked exclusively with Apple's internal CD-RW drives for the iMac and Power Macintosh G4, leaving many people with third-party CD burners out of luck. Apple has worked hard to correct this oversight with iTunes 1.1, a software update that provides support for many third-party CD-RW drives (both internal and external). Those of you itching to rip, mix, and burn with iTunes can download the update immediately at www.apple.com/itunes/. An update to Apple's Disc Burner software is also available.



Monkey Island Ships

LucasArts has always meant great entertainment, and *Escape from Monkey Island* (Aspyr Media, \$45) should prove to be all that and more. This graphic adventure game features gorgeous hand-drawn graphics combined with an amazing 3D engine that is used to portray the animated characters and scenery. This game tells the continuing adventures of would-be pirate Guybrush Threepwood, a bumbling adventurer who's sharp tongue and dull wits get him in and out of trouble on a regular basis. With a madcap plot, wicked sense of humor, and tons of great music and sound, this game is sure to be entertaining for young and old. You will need a G3 system with a Rage Pro graphics chip and a 233MHz processor to play this game. *Aspyr, www.aspyr.com*



New Hardware

The Latest Devices for Your Macintosh



Digital Cameras

C-700 Ultra Zoom

2.0 megapixel, 10X zoom, 8MB (USB)
\$800, Olympus
www.olympus.com

Brio D-100

1.2 megapixel, 2X zoom, 8MB (USB)
\$350, Olympus
www.olympus.com

Cyber-shot DCS-S75

3.3 megapixel, 3X zoom, MPEG video (USB)
\$700, Sony
www.sony.com

Cyber-shot DCS-P30

1.3 megapixel, 3X zoom, MPEG video (USB)
\$400, Sony
www.sony.com

Cyber-shot DCS-P50

2.1 megapixel, 3X zoom, MPEG video (USB)
\$500, Sony, www.sony.com



PowerShot A10

1.3 megapixel, 3X zoom (USB)
\$500, Canon
www.powershot.com

PowerShot A20

2.1 megapixel, 3X zoom (USB)
\$600, Canon
www.powershot.com

FinePix 2300

2.1 megapixel, 8MB (USB)
\$280, Fuji
www.fujifilm.com

Storage Solutions

Fantom CD-RW

16x10x40 CD Recorder (FireWire)
\$460, Fantom Drives
www.fantomdrives.com

LightSpeed

CRW2100FXZ
16x10x40 CD Recorder (FireWire)
\$400, Yamaha
www.yamaha.com

Addonics CD-RW

8x4x24 CD Recorder (FireWire), \$500
www.addonics.com

Audio/Video

Mini DV Digital

Handycam DCR-TRV 17
10X zoom, Nightshot (USB/FireWire)
\$1,100, Sony
www.sonymstyle.com

Mini DV Digital

Handycam DCR-TRV 30
10X zoom, Nightshot, 1.5 megapixel Still Shot (USB/FireWire)
\$1,700, Sony
www.sonymstyle.com

Scanners

CanoScan 1230UF

1200x2400 dpi, 48-bit color scanner (USB)
\$300, Canon
www.canon.com

CanoScan 2400UF

2400x4800 dpi, 48-bit color scanner (USB)
\$500, Canon
www.canon.com

CanoScan FS4000US

4000-dpi, 42-bit color, digital film scanner (USB)
\$1,100, Canon
www.canon.com

SprintScan

4000 dpi, 42-bit color digital film scanner (FireWire)
\$2,795, Polaroid
www.polaroidwork.com

Miscellaneous

USB 4-port Serial Adapter

\$150, Keyspan
www.keyspan.com

Cordless MouseMan Optical

800 DPI, three button mouse with scroll wheel
\$70, Logitech
www.logitech.com



HP PSC 750 All-In-One

2400x1200 dpi color inkjet, 600x1200 dpi scanner (USB)
\$300, Hewlett Packard
www.hp.com

For a complete list of new and updated
USB products, visit **www.imacguide.com**

Hollywood Gets Wired

Films and Television Shows Online

By Lisa McVeigh

Looking for more information on an upcoming movie? Or a short biography of your favorite television star? **Many studios now offer Websites to complement popular sitcoms, reality shows, and motion pictures.**

Though some sites are bland, a number of them are truly engaging, offering character profiles, trivia games, and video clips. Here are a few stellar sites that deserve a visit:

The Simpsons

All those yellow faces you've grown to love are very much alive at The Simpsons Website. The site is structured like a community bulletin, including briefings about upcoming

episodes and Springfield gossip. You can find biographies of the many characters that have appeared on the series, the actors that give them voices, and the show's creators and animators. Another great feature on this site is the complete Episode Guide that offers a brief description of each episode and the original airdate. You can also share your opinions with other fans on the Springfield community discussion board. (www.thesimpsons.com)



Harry Potter

Many children are very familiar with Harry Potter from J.K. Rowling's imaginative series of books. This site is appealing to youngsters who seek to dive into the world of Harry Potter's wizardry. Children can "enroll and be sorted" at Hogwarts and be assigned to a house at the school of witchcraft. In Diagon Alley, you can create and send post cards to friends, print bookmarks, and download screensavers.

You can also learn everything you want to know about the upcoming movie by reading The Daily Prophet. (www.harrypotter.warnerbros.com)

Lord of the Rings

J.R.R. Tolkien's famous Lord of the Rings trilogy finally hits the big screen this December. Those of you who haven't read the series but are planning to see the film should visit this site to learn more about the film

and the rich storyline it brings to life. Fans of the books will enjoy exploring an interactive map of Middle Earth. You can also get a sneak peak at the movies by listening to audio live from the movie set or downloading the trailer. (www.lordoftherings.net)

Survivor

If you're among the viewers of CBS's hit reality show Survivor (and who isn't?), you should certainly visit its Website.

You can access up-to-date accounts of the events that have unfolded in the Australian Outback in either text or video format, and check out the biography, photo gallery, and poll standings of your favorite tribe member. Kids and adults alike will also enjoy the animated Survivor games that can be found here. Please note that you will need Flash, ShockWave, and RealPlayer to experience all the interactive features of this site. (www.survivor.cbs.com)



Star Wars

LucasFilm has done a superb job bringing the Star Wars saga to the Internet. You'll find almost everything you ever wanted to know about the four released films, as well as photos and documentary videos from the production of Episode II. Star Wars fans of all ages can spend hours looking through the detailed descriptions and photos of characters, droids, vehicles, aliens, technology, and locations. All this information might seem bewildering, but LucasFilm has done a great job organizing it logically so that the site is easy to navigate. (www.starwars.com) 

Fun with Photos

Create an Online Album to Share Your Digital Photos With Friends and Family

By Michael Eilers

So, you have a Mac. And after much nagging from your friends, you bought a digital camera to take pictures of that daughter/puppy/antique car they are all bugging to see. The problem is that **digital camera pictures are, well, digital.**

Sure, you can download them from the camera to your Mac and then print and mail them – but then only the people you mail them to will see them. Why not show all of your relatives, and indeed the entire wired world, just how cute your daughter/puppy/antique car is?

Digital camera images are perfectly suited to this sort of sharing, and the Web is the perfect home for your favorite photographs. But how can you bridge the gap between your camera and the Internet? As you might expect you are not the only one interested in posting your photographs online, and literally hundreds of services exist for doing exactly that with varying degrees of difficulty or complexity.

The first step to getting your photographs online involves dumping them from your camera to your Mac; as each camera ships with its own selection of software or tools for doing this, the proper way to go about it is between you and your camera's manual. So, download those

photographs to a place you can easily find them. The next step of course is to give them familiar, descriptive names rather than the arcane filenames most cameras produce.

Shrink It Down

If you have one of the megapixel cameras that produce photos suitable for high-resolution prints on paper, there is an extra step you must take. The size of a digital image is measured in pixels, and so is the width of all computer monitors. The average person has a computer monitor that is 1024 pixels wide, yet some digital cameras can produce images which are 1280 pixels or greater in width. Thus it would be literally impossible for that person to see your photograph all at once, especially when you subtract the screen space needed for the Web browser, scroll bars, menus and other parts of the interface. The other problem generated by megapixel images is the large

amount of data it takes to hold all that image information – a megapixel image is a large file, often two to three megabytes in size. If you've spent any time exploring the Web, you know that the larger an image is, the longer it takes to display on your screen, especially if you are limited to modem speeds.

So, in order to take the needs of your image viewers into consideration, you have to shrink these images down to a size more suited for the Web. One method for doing this is quite simple; just limit your camera to a low resolution (say 640x480 or lower) when taking the photos in the first place, if you know your intention is to post them on the Web or email them to friends.

However, if your images are already megapixel in size, you have two steps to take: resize the image to a smaller width and height, and then compress that image to shrink the size even further.



Again, many people in the world besides you have a desire to do this, and there are many, many methods for doing so – too many to cover here. However regardless of the software, the method remains the same. First you must open your digital image in an image editor. PhotoDeluxe, which ships with many digital cameras, and the shareware editor Graphic Converter are just two of the options. No matter which tool you choose, there will be the option to change the Image Size, usually under the Edit menu. Usually you only

have to change the horizontal (width) setting, as the height is automatically scaled to keep the photo in proportion and avoid stretching or distortion. For an image taken in the vertical position, change the vertical size. Choose a low number such as 640 (or ideally 480). When you hit OK, the image will be automatically reduced to the smaller size setting.

At this point you might want to engage in a little digital darkroom wizardry to make your photograph look better; the software that ships with cameras often features automatic red-eye reduction and color correction, but those tools are beyond the scope of this discussion. However, there is one filter you definitely need to use before putting your photos online: the Sharpen command. When you shrink your image down (especially if it was a monster megapixel photo) the program has to guess where to put the elements of the image when it takes all the pixels in the image and scales them down. This guessing is far from exact, and thus the resulting image is usually slightly blurred. A simple Sharpen command will bring out the details and fix those fuzzy edges, but don't overdo it; there is such a thing as too much sharpness.

Once your image is shrunk down to a manageable size, now is the time to save it. This is the moment when you should compress the image, which further shrinks the data down so that the image can be emailed to a friend or viewed on the Web with greater ease and speed. The most common method of compression for digital photos on the web is JPEG compression, indicated by the letters ".jpg" on the end of the image name. This method takes the pixels in an image and averages them, then throws away as many as possible without changing the image too greatly. There is indeed some loss of quality when you compress an image for the Web, but you can choose how much detail you are willing to sacrifice for size. Typically, a one megabyte image can be shrunk to a mere 40k with minimal quality loss.

Usually you can choose the degree of compression on a small slider which has preset values such as Maximum, High,

Medium, and Low; these are indications of the resulting image quality. Medium is the way to go, unless your image is full of delicate or dense detail; then you can crank it up a notch to High. Again, be sure to save your file in a place where you can easily locate it.



Instant Photo Galleries

If all you want to do is host a quick photo gallery on the Web for your friends, co-workers or family to see, there is an extremely simple and painless way for doing this. It will come as no surprise that Apple, the company which made computers friendly and easy-to-use in the first place, has provided its own tool for doing this, and made it fast and elegant as well. Apple's powerful iTools utilities, which bridge the gap between your system and the Web, have several features which make it easy to produce an instant photo gallery whenever you need one.

The first step is to go to Apple's Web site, and choose the iTools button. If you do not have an iTools account already, be sure to sign up for one. A small tool will be automatically downloaded and installed on your computer; it may require that you restart your system or quit and re-open your web browser. Once you are back on the iTools site you should proceed to the iDisk section, and choose Open Your iDisk. If you wait a few seconds (or a few minutes for those with standard modem connections) a new disk will appear on your desktop, right next to your hard drive and CD-ROM icons. This is your iDisk, a remote connection to the 20 MB of free space Apple gives all iTools users.



Going Home Apple's HomePage tool is a great place to create your first online photo album. Sign up for an iTools account and transfer your favorite photos to your iDisk. Now head over to the iTools Website to get started!

Open your iDisk with a double-click, and locate the Pictures folder. Then find the folder where you have placed the digital images that you reduced in size and converted to ".jpg" files. Just drag those images, one at a time or in a group, to that Pictures folder, and they will be automatically be uploaded to your remote iDisk. A progress bar will keep you informed on how long the process should take and will vanish when it is complete.

Once your photos are on your iDisk, just go to the HomePage section of the iTools site, and choose Photo Gallery as the type of page you want to create. Choose from the several available styles, and a thumbnails page will be created for you with all of your photographs from the iDisk. The instructions will guide you through choosing which photos you want on the page; you can also add captions, descriptions, an introduction, and an album title. When you are finished iTools will give you a URL (Web address) that you can email to others so they know how to find the page and view the photographs.

As an added bonus, any image you place on your iDisk can be used as a background for a virtual postcard sent by Apple's iCards service. Just choose Use My Photos when you are creating the card, and select one from the thumbnails which iCards presents.

Photo Sharing

What if you aren't satisfied with just showing your photos to family and friends – what if you want to share them

with thousands of others who are also interested in the same subjects? Dozens of Websites around the Net cater to this need, often for free, and provide powerful tools for displaying and sharing your photos. The advantages of using these online resources over Apple's iTools services are numerous. They offer many advanced features such as search engines, ways to find images that match your interest, and tricks to make sure your own photos get seen by others. Most offer the ability to order high-quality prints of your photos (for a fee of course). However these extras do come at a price; those who come to see your photos may have to deal with ad banners, promotions, and other annoying distractions. Several sites may even request that visitors open an account before viewing the images you have posted online.

Examples of these sites include Clubphoto.com, PhotoPoint.com, Imagestation.com, and Zing.com. Each site has its own mix of features, tools, and methods for displaying your pictures online, so you should visit them all and decide which suits your needs.

But without the convenience of an iDisk, how can you post your photos online? Unfortunately each site has its own method for doing this, and we can't cover them all here. The instructions shouldn't be intimidating to anyone who has already mastered their digital camera. Just remember the instructions for resizing images, as many of these online galleries have a set limit on the file size or width/height of the images you may submit.

Luckily for Mac users, several software tools exist that can do the job for you with less hassle. One standout is iView PhotoMover (iView Multimedia, \$15), an easy-to-use tool that uploads your photos to the photo gallery Website of your choice with just a click. This shareware tool can even resize your images to a preset size on the fly, and supports six online photo archives. For more information about PhotoMover, visit www.iview-multimedia.com.

Online Albums

What if you already have your own Web site space (most Internet accounts offer

10-20 MB of space) and want total control over how your images are displayed, with no ad banners or other distractions? The truly ambitious who really want to make their photos shine online will want to construct the entire gallery themselves in HTML. However, there's no need to rush out and grab the latest "Learn HTML in Seven Hours" book. Once again, the software market has provided for your need. There are dozens of programs which will crank out attractive web galleries for you automatically, ranging from stripped-down freeware such as PhotoPage (JAV, free) to shareware solutions such as Web



Home Decorating Apple's HomePage tool offers eight different album formats to present your photos. Popular themes include Winter, Fall, Beach and Birthday, each specially designed to give your photo album a seasonal flair.

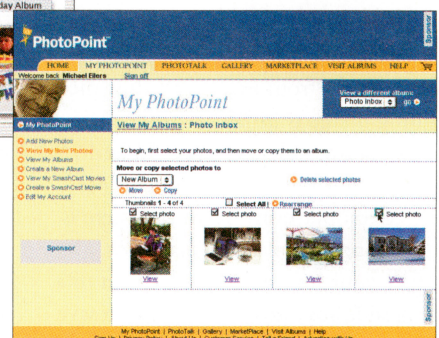
Album Wizard (Black Magik Software, \$20) and Photo Upload (Big Green Software, \$20). Commercial image editor Adobe Photoshop also includes automatic Web gallery generation, which you should expect from a \$500 pro-level image tool.

Once you have your HTML pages and the accompanying images constructed, you must upload them to your reserved space on your ISP's server. Usually this is done through FTP, or File Transfer Protocol. To do this you need to know your login and password, and the directory you should upload the photos to; your ISP will have all of this information for you. A typical FTP address is ftp.hostname.com, for example, and using your username and password should automatically put you in the right place. You need some FTP software to do this, of course; the freeware

tool Fetch is a good place to start. Shareware FTP tools include Transmit (Panic Software, \$25) and Interarchy (Interarchy User Group, \$35).

Uploading your files is as simple as drag-and-drop, but it is vital to remember to preserve the directory structure of the files as you upload them. For instance, if you have a page called gallery.html and a folder of images, you must make sure the gallery.html file stays where it is in relation to the folder and doesn't end up inside it or separated from it by another directory/folder.

Once your images and Web pages are uploaded to the FTP directory, you should be able to see them with any Web browser and the proper URL (again, your ISP can tell you what that should be). The next step is to email anyone that you think would like to see your gallery, and direct him or her to your new Web site.



Other Fun Resources

This is only the beginning of what you can do with your digital photos and the Web. You can upload images to online auction sites to help sell your stuff, or add an image gallery to your résumé. You can convert your high-res digital images to T-shirts, mugs, posters, and even baseball caps. There are even resources for professional photographers which allow to sell or license your work online. All you need is the software and the know-how. Great places to look for the tools mentioned in this article include the ever-popular Tucows (www.tucows.com), VersionTracker (www.versiontracker.com), and c|net (www.download.com). Searching for keywords such as "photo" and "image" should help you on your way. 

Seal Your Message With a Click

Online Greetings Offer a Fun and Flexible Way to Show You Care

By Patrick Leyden

One of the most popular ways to keep in touch with friends and family these hectic days is through Web-based electronic greeting cards. There are a number of Web sites that can help users send a variety of messages, **from birthday greetings to holiday remembrances.**

All of these sites have unique features that offer users fun and easy ways to keep in touch.

Blue Mountain

The most famous of all greeting card sites is Blue Mountain (www.blue-mountain.com). This free service delivers a Web link via email that allows the recipient to view the card online. Blue Mountain remains popular today thanks to its simple interface and an extensive library of cards. This site has partnered with a number of e-commerce Websites so that users can even send a gift along with their e-card. Registration is not necessary in order to use the site, but it does allow users to save contact information.

In addition to offering animated graphics and music with their cards, Blue Mountain also allows users to extensively customize their greetings.

Once the card is composed, senders in the United States can call a toll-free phone number and leave a message. This message is immediately digitized and linked to the greeting card as a custom voice message available for download in the with the greeting card.

Shared Greetings

Much like Blue Mountain, Shared Greetings (www.sharedgreetings.com) offers cards for almost any occasion. Most cards feature some kind of animation or simple interactive element, and they are viewable for a limited time by going to a specific Internet address. Composing a greeting card is a three-step process that is easy for a novice to follow. Cards sent using Shared Greetings are free, but this site also offers a registration option that

provides similar features to those offered by Blue Mountain.

The unique aspect of Shared Greetings is the ongoing sweepstakes the site holds for its users. Both the sender and the receiver of a Shared Greetings e-card have the chance of winning a prize. Gift certificates and MP3 players are just a few of items up for grabs.

iCards

Mac users who have been to Apple's home page in the past year cannot help but notice the iCards tab at the top of the page. iCards (www.apple.com/icards) is a component of Apple's larger iTools service, a set of online tools that extends the functionality of Mac OS 9 and X. iCards offers Mac and Windows users a revolving selection of high-quality images that can be customized with a



message and sent to anyone who has an email address.

Perhaps the most difficult part of making an iCard is choosing the card's picture. An eclectic mix of high-quality photographs and images of famous works of art makes an iCard stand out from the crowd. Composing an iCard is also easy, as Apple's site walks you through every step of the process. The user on the receiving end gets a high-quality JPEG image file delivered via email, rather than a temporary Web link. This way, the recipient can keep the card as long as they like! 

Mobile Multimedia

Apple's PowerBooks and iBooks Can Be the Center of Your Digital Lifestyle

By Patrick Leyden

With the increasing pervasiveness of built-in applications such as iTunes, iMovie, and DVD Player, Apple is well on its way to fulfilling its intent to **make the Macintosh the "center of your digital lifestyle"** as promised by CEO Steve Jobs at the 2001 Macworld Expo in San Francisco.

This multimedia madness is not limited to the owners of iMacs and G4 towers. PowerBook and iBook road warriors can also get into the act in ways that their desktop counterparts can only dream about. Apple's modern portable computers make fantastic entertainment devices for on-the-go Mac users.

Boom Book

Whether at home, school or work, listening to music is a great way to disconnect from the world around you and focus on a given task. Believe it or not, your iBook or PowerBook can make an excellent musical companion. Although though it is much larger than a dedicated MP3 player or CD player, your portable Macintosh also has much greater capabilities than these devices.

All 'Books ship with some kind of CD or DVD-ROM drive that is capable of playing back an audio CD. For years, the Mac OS has been able to play these discs with the AppleCD Audio Player. This simple application, which is still included with MacOS 9.1, is a no-frills tool that provides users with basic playback capabilities. What makes a mobile Mac compelling for music playback is when MP3s are brought into the mix.

The MP3 audio compression format has changed the way the technosavvy listen to music. Converting CD audio tracks to MP3 files significantly reduces the file size of songs with little or no sacrifice in sound quality. As a result, your portable Mac's hard disk

drive can easily be turned into a virtual jukebox of your favorite songs available to you at the click of a mouse.

There are many applications on the market for playing back MP3 files, but none are as compelling as Apple's own iTunes software. iTunes can convert your audio CDs to the MP3 format, has excellent built-in cataloging and searching of these files, and has numerous playback options. If you happen to be connected to the Internet, iTunes can even connect to any one of a number of Internet radio stations. Best of all, iTunes is free and works on any Mac running Mac OS 9.1 or better (including Mac OS X).

Once you have your PowerBook or iBook ready with hundreds of megabytes of MP3s or a stack of CDs you are almost ready to go. Why almost? Even though every Macintosh has some kind of built-in speaker, these speakers are barely adequate for prolonged listening to music. Depending



on your situation, it is wise to invest in a pair of headphones or a set of portable speakers for your portable. All iBooks and PowerBooks have a 1/8" stereo sound headphone jack, which is the standard for all headphones and portable speakers. There is a dizzying array of headphones and speakers available wherever CDs or electronics are sold. Keep in mind that you will be using these with a portable Mac, so selecting some-

thing that can easily slip into a backpack or computer briefcase is a good idea. You will be amazed at the kind of value even an inexpensive set of headphones or speakers adds to your music listening experience. Owners of iBooks with FireWire ports have an additional option for audio output. The headphone jack also provides audio-video output by using a special cable provided by Apple. The audio connectors on this cable are RCA-style composite connectors that are typically found on stereo receivers and televisions. They can be used without their adjoining video connector to give iBook owners the ability to interface with even more audio output devices without purchasing adapter cables.

Presentation Power

Video output on a notebook computer at first might seem somewhat redundant to some users. After all, why have an option for video output since the notebook computer already has a built-in LCD display? The reason is simple. Video output allows you to easily share your output with a group of people. This can be used for presenting a digital slide show, sharing the excitement of an intense 3D game the big screen, or for watching a movie on a DVD-equipped Mac portable. No matter what you chose to do with it, iBook and PowerBook video output is practical for almost every user.

The PowerBook G3, as well as the new Titanium PowerBook G4, have more built-in video output options of any Mac available today. Their first available option is VGA output, which is the computer industry's standard interface for connecting a computer with a display device. Minimally, this VGA output option allows a user to output a copy of what is on their screen to another computer monitor or properly equipped video projector. This process is called video mirroring. PowerBooks with enough video RAM also have the option of using this VGA port to drive a second display independent of the built-in LCD display. This is known as monitor spanning and is seen most often on desktop Macs that run multiple displays.

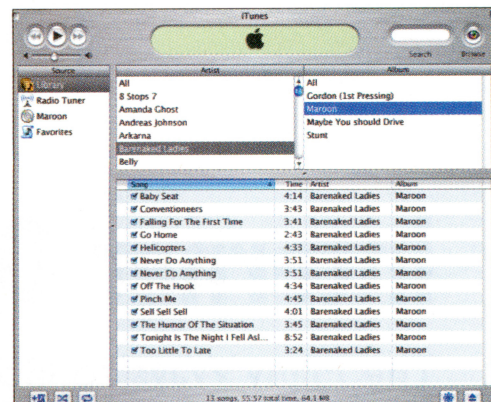
The high-quality output from the VGA port is quite useful. However, this is a

computer-centric standard. VGA video output is not much help if you are at a friend's house and want to use your PowerBook to show off your latest digital vacation pictures or iMovies. Luckily, the professional PowerBook models also offer S-Video as an output option. For Mac users who remember the days before USB mice and keyboards, the S-Video port resembles an Apple Desktop Bus (ADB) port. This interface is commonly seen on mid-to-high range video and home theatre equipment since it splits the luminance and chrominance video signals to deliver superior picture quality. S-Video can also be easily converted into the more common RCA-type composite video connector so that connecting your new PowerBook to most televisions and video cassette recorders is a snap.

Although owners of the original iBook are out of luck when it comes to video output, FireWire iBook owners are well-equipped. As mentioned previously, the latest iBook's headphone jack supports a special cable that will output audio and video to RCA-type video connectors. All you need to do it plug one end into the iBook and the other into the television, and you're ready to roll. The video capabilities of the latest iBooks have brought the portable even closer to the power and flexibility of its professional cousin.

Your Mobile Digital Hub

The ability to easily output both audio and video have transformed Apple's iBooks into truly full-featured mobile multimedia devices. With the convergence of high quality, small file size MP3 music; the growing popularity of digital still photography and videography; and the pervasiveness of DVDs, the modern portable Macintosh has become the perfect digital companion. Today's PowerBook and iBook are part MP3 player, part DVD player, part game console, and part presentation device with a fully-featured Macintosh thrown in for good measure. Whether you are on the road or lounging at home, your iBook or PowerBook might just be all you need to server both your productivity and entertainment needs. 



Take the music with you iTunes can transform your PowerBook or iBook into a full-featured portable jukebox.

iMac TV

If you own an iMac with FireWire ports, you also have an additional video output option you might not be aware of. On the back of every DV-ready iMac is a VGA output connector like the one found on PowerBooks. It is hidden behind a plastic cover, but can be removed and replaced with a cover provided by Apple (in the iMac accessory kit) that will leave the VGA connector exposed. Once the VGA connector is accessible, the iMac will support video mirroring of a second display. If you want to use your iMac to watch a DVD or to output the psychedelic visualizations from iTunes to your big screen TV, you will need a scan converter. This is a device that converts the VGA computer signal into a format that a television or video cassette recorder can understand. Focus Enhancements sells such a device, called the i-View DV (www.focusenhancements.com/products/ivew_dv/iview_dv.htm). This device sells for about \$140 US and will provide output in a variety of television-friendly formats.

Internet On Ramps

The Many Ways to Connect to the Net

By Patrick Leyden

The iMac was invisioned to be the easiest computer ever made for connecting to the Internet. As the online landscape has evolved, **there have been significant changes in the ways in which people can get online.**

Analog Modems

For years, the traditional analog modem had been the only way for mere mortals to start exploring the online landscape. The speed of the modem shipping in every Macintosh is 56K, which means that the modem can transfer data at a maximum speed of 56,000 bits per second. These modems are actually limited to 53K because of FCC regulations.

Modems offer much in the way of flexibility in connecting to the Internet, since practically every service provider has some form of dialup modem access. Modem connections are also the preferred way to connect to America Online if you need access to AOL's exclusive services as well as the Internet. If you chose American Online or another provider, expect to pay about \$20 per month for unlimited dialup Internet access.

The biggest drawback to using modem is the speed. When the iMac was originally introduced, 56k modems were considered a relatively speedy way to get online. Today, as online multimedia content increases, this transfer rate is simply not fast enough for many users.

Digital Subscriber Lines

The Digital Subscriber Line, also know as DSL, is a way to get online that offers speeds vastly superior to traditional modems, but it has its own drawbacks.

At its fastest, DSL has speeds approaching 1.5 megabits per second but can slow down to 348k per second. Most DSL connections are also asymmetrical, which means that upload speeds are not as fast as download speeds. And unlike analog modems, which must dial into a server, a DSL connection is always available.

The DSL connection runs into your Mac's Ethernet networking port and a special kind of modem — usually rented or bought from your DSL provider — provides the interface that allows your Mac to talk to this high-speed data line. Many local telephone companies offer DSL service, and you can expect to pay anywhere from \$30 to \$60 a month

The biggest limitation to the current implementation of DSL deals with distance. Your home must be within three miles of your local telephone company's switching station to be eligible for a DSL connection, and the further away you are, the slower your connection.

Cable Modems

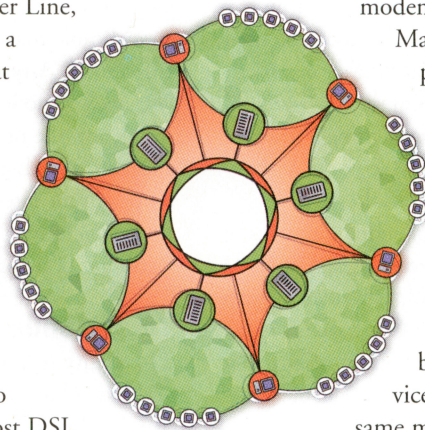
Cable modem connections are another popular way to experience the broadband Internet. As the name implies, the cable modem connection runs over existing cable television lines without affecting cable TV services. The service is always connected, just like DSL. Theoretically, cable modems offer download speeds as fast as 10 megabits per second with upload speeds approaching 5 mbps. Like DSL, cable

modems connect to your Mac via its Ethernet port and require a device (in this case the aforementioned cable modem) for your Mac to interface with the cable line.

Cable modem-based Internet service is roughly the same monthly price as

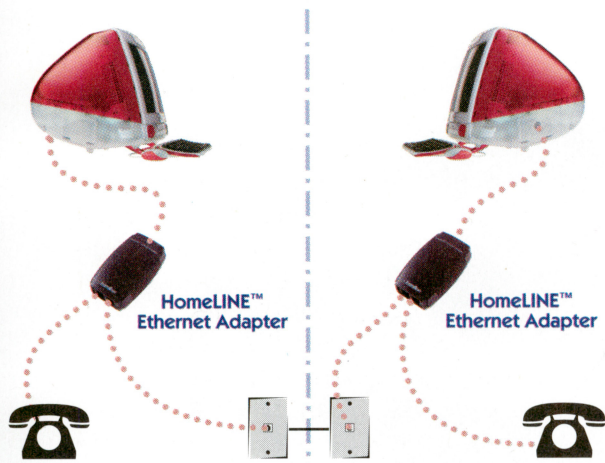
DSL but, unlike modem and DSL connections, you usually cannot shop around for the best service provider. Since a majority of localities have no cable competition, you're limited to the cable company that currently holds the franchise for your area.

The design of cable television systems has created an interesting effect for cable modem networks. As more people use cable modem service in your neighborhood, the network performance for all users suffers. Still, the convenience of television and Internet coming into your home via one wire is an attractive option for many users. 



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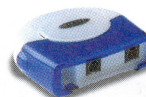
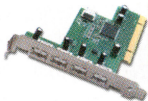
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Dazzle Hollywood DV-Bridge vs. Formac Studio

Two Analog-to-Digital-to-Analog Video Converters Face Off

Converters like the Dazzle Hollywood DV-Bridge (\$299) and Formac Studio (\$399) are a godsend for anyone who wants to digitize old home movies, like that tape of your parents' golden anniversary.

Connected between the camcorder or VCR and the computer, these boxes translate the footage into a format the computer understands, sending the digitized clips over FireWire. They can also reverse the process, turning digital back into analog, so you end up with a VCR-ready movie.

We used a PowerMac G4 at 400MHz to put the converters to the test of digitizing highlights from a day of snowboarding. After adding bells and whistles with iMovie, we then ran the video back through each converter and recorded it on a VCR.

Composite RCA and S-video input and output ports are available on both boxes. The Studio adds coaxial in and out. And both have two FireWire ports — one for video input and one for output. FireWire cables were included. The installations were plug-and-play easy.

By Sandy Brundage

Quality of converted footage looked about the same. Audio transferred smoothly with the Hollywood DV-Bridge once virtual memory was turned off; with it on, the audio was buzzy and not quite in sync with video. The Formac Studio didn't have that problem.

We then tested the digital-to-analog conversion using a short video created with iMovie that included a title screen, rolling credits, a soundtrack, and five scene transitions. The transfers went smoothly and the results were comparably decent.

The Studio and Hollywood DV-Bridge switched modes (digital-to-analog, analog-to-digital) on the fly. You'll have to shuttle cables around, but each port is marked as input or output on the converters to minimize cable confusion.

The Hollywood DV-Bridge is about the size and weight of a paperback book. Its design is functional, not flashy. A vertical stand is included, but the unit popped out of it during routine cable fiddling.

The Formac Studio resembles a curvy, silver hardback novel. Unlike the Hollywood DV-Bridge, the Studio runs off bus power. As long as you aren't using the Studio with a laptop connected to multiple FireWire devices (in which case the Studio needs an external power supply), that's one less cable to untangle.

The bundled software may account for the price difference. The Hollywood DV-Bridge comes with PC-only software. The Studio, however, comes with a treat. Its ProTV software lets you watch up to 125 TV channels on your Mac or tune in to FM radio stations. You can also capture and digitize from either source. But ProTV isn't an editing suite, so save a step and use iMovie to capture video to be edited. The Studio meshed smoothly with both programs.

The Final Decision

The Studio gains an edge thanks to ProTV and bus power. But the Hollywood DV-Bridge delivers comparable video quality and ease of use. Overall, either is an excellent choice of converter. **MH**

rating

Hollywood DV-Bridge
\$299, Dazzle
www.dazzle.com
888-212-8045

 Small, indicator lights clearly labeled, includes FireWire cable, easy installation and use

 No troubleshooting help, needs included power supply, no Mac software bundle, stand unstable

rating

Studio
\$399, Formac
www.formac.com
800-216-2763

 Bus powered, bundled with software, includes FireWire cable, easy installation and use

 Manual's troubleshooting only covers software, large design

SmartSound Sonicfire Pro

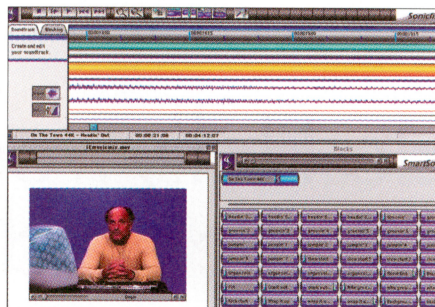
Music industry people get pretty steamed over unauthorized use of copyrighted materials. So unless you are making an iMovie masterpiece destined to premiere only at Grandma's house, you might want to resist the temptation to use "a little bit" of someone else's music in your commercial projects. Sonicfire Pro is just what you need; it's a well-designed software tool that can help you create uniquely arranged, royalty-free soundtracks for your commercial projects, even if you can't tell the difference between rae and do.

The "Maestro" starts with a series of options such as track function, like opener, background, or action; style, like grooves, rockin', or techno; and queries how long you want your music. Sonicfire Pro comes with two CDs of SmartSound tracks. You can purchase additional CDs

in a wide variety of musical styles from the extensive SmartSound online catalog for \$69 or \$129 depending on the desired quality.

Sonicfire Pro lets you tweak the arrangement of a music track by adjusting the placement and length of what Sonicfire Pro calls musical Smart Blocks — sections that correspond to events on your original video or audio. For instance, if you don't want to hear a blaring trumpet riff as the narrator's voice begins, you can easily move the Trumpet Solo Smart Block back in time, then increase the length of a more compatible-sounding Smart Block under the narrator's voice.

While not cheaper than all buy-out music (songs that you buy the rights to), Sonicfire Pro gives you the opportunity



to be creative and precise in customizing the soundtrack to your project.

The Final Decision

If you do a lot of video editing or visual presentations, then Sonicfire Pro belongs

in your "bag of tricks." While not cheaper than all buy-out music, Sonicfire Pro is a valuable sound editing and creation tool. Its unique ability to customize music tracks makes it worth the investment.

— Eric Ross

rating ★★★★★

\$349, Sonic Desktop Software
www.smartsound.com
800-454-1900

Easy to use, creates royalty free sound tracks

Pricier than some buy-out music CDs

Final Draft AV

Final Draft AV will generate sighs of relief from anyone creating visual productions including commercials, sales presentations, documentaries, or corporate videos. This program let you spend time being creative by freeing you from the drudgery of maintaining the deceptively simple-looking two-column format used by audio/visual scriptwriters. Final Draft AV can successfully transform your conceptual musings into a professional looking script.

Final Draft AV knows you are writing a visual and sound script, and it is smart enough to keep the audio — the right half of the page — always connected to

its corresponding visual description on the left half of the page. When you type a character's name in the audio column, you can either hit return once to enter in that character's dialogue or hit return twice to automatically start typing character action or mood within sets of parentheses.

While there are a number of scriptwriting (or script formatting) applications on the market, most are better suited for dramatic works where the focus is on the actor's dialogue, shot location

(interior/exterior), and camera direction. Because of its two-column format, production requirements such as talent, props, and overall production time are easily identified. Final Draft AV's intuitive interface requires you to learn few uncommon keyboard commands, and

once you get going, the built-in spell checker and thesaurus assist in any lapses in your memory. Scripts created in other word processing applications like Microsoft Word, once properly formatted with tables, can be imported and exported to and from Final Draft AV.

The Final Decision If you write scripts for corporate videos, documentaries, music videos, or commercials, check out Final Draft AV. Its ability to always keep audio and visual scene elements linked make this program a must-have for any serious or "wannabe" audio visual screenwriter.

— Eric Ross

MacHome TV			
Agency	Writer	Eric Ross	
Client	Producer	Sam Wain	
Project	Director	Radi Debracion	
Title	Art Director		
Subject	Medium	Video	
Job #	Content	Scene Pitch	
Code #	Death	Final	
VIDEO		AUDIO	
JIM SITTING AT TABLE(CLOSE UP)	JIM	THANKS FOR JOINING US ON MACHOME TV. TECHNOLOGY YOU CAN SEE. YOU KNOW EVERY WEEK WE ATTEMPT TO DEMYSTIFY TECHNOLOGY SO THAT YOU CAN TAKE ADVANTAGE OF YOUR MAC.	
JIM HOLDING A CD-RW	JIM	THIS WEEK WE'RE GOING TO TALK ABOUT BUYING CD-RW DRIVES	
BCU OF CD-RW DRIVE	JIM	I'M HOLDING THE NEWEST DRIVE FROM THE JOMEGA COMPANY. IT CALLED THE PREDITOR.	

rating ★★★★★

\$249, Final Draft Inc.
www.finaldraft.com
800 231-4055

Easy to use, time saver, creates professional looking scripts

None

Kodak Personal Picture Maker 200

The Kodak Personal Picture Maker 200 is a balanced option for anyone seeking a printer. Text looks smooth, photos approach the quality of your mall photo developer, and the printer even functions as a stand-alone unit with flash-card readers and an LCD screen. If you can look beyond the thin construction of this printer, you'll find a balanced home inkjet with the extra benefit of working as a flash-card reader.

In a world where printers seem to be released on a weekly schedule (and I'm only exaggerating a little), the hook for the Personal Picture Maker are its stand-alone functions. Even more straightforward than using a Mac, you can drop a CompactFlash or Smart Media card from your camera directly into the printer, and make pictures without a computer. The LCD screen selects images to print. This autonomous feature is more

flash than substance; you'll want to adjust colors in Photoshop. But at least the printer will upload images.

Installation for this printer was uneventful. After loading a driver and ink cartridge, it was up and running without incident.

The print quality excels for text and images. Black type is well-defined, although close examination reveals some fuzzy borders around characters. At 1,200 dpi, photos printed on glossy paper passed for 35mm duplicates at a glance, but detailed inspection revealed thin horizontal bands where the ink had glided across the page. However, these marks were imperceptible from beyond a few inches, and the ink left no pixelated marks. Overall, the print quality is a strong point of this printer.



The weakest part of this printer is its construction. The plastic covers for the print head and card slots easily fell off, and the printer visibly bends when moved.

The Final Decision If you can overlook its flexible construction, the Kodak Personal Picture Maker 200 delivers great options. Card-reader functionality and defined prints are the top reasons to choose this unit.

— Zack Stern

rating	
\$200, Lexmark International, Inc. www.lexmark.com 888-539-6275	
	Defined image quality, card-reader function
	Weak construction

60GB FireWire Plus Hard Drive

If you work with digital video and need 60GB of extra storage, this external drive will provide the bandwidth and speed to sustain frame rates. Or if you just need an extra 60GB for a growing MP3 collection, other files, or backup, this model will suit you well. While you get FireWire and USB connectivity, you also get a full-sized drive. So if portability is paramount, look up a tiny, but more expensive model.

The APS FireWire Plus delivers two modes of connectivity for any situation. If you find an old iMac or iBook that only has USB ports, you can rely on that slower bus. However, you won't take



advantage of the drive's 7,200 rpm speed when using the thin USB port (most drives that come inside a Mac are slower at 5,400 rpm). For full-speed video, use FireWire for capture and playback. The 60GB ceiling leaves room for about four hours of DV footage.

While the connectivity options make for a drive that would work in most situations, the size and power requirements limit the versatility of the APS

FireWire Plus. The drive housing resembles a beige dictionary. And it weighs several pounds — it's not something that I'd like to carry in a bag for the day. Finally, it requires a power connection via a standard computer power cable. So you're out of luck if you want to do any work on an airplane.

The APS FireWire Plus includes every-

thing to get started. Hard disk formatting software and cables for power, USB, and FireWire ship in the box. After plugging it in, it worked on several test machines even without any software installation.

The Final Decision If you need storage for the road, look first to a pocket-sized option. If you don't need to move the APS 60GB FireWire Plus, it's a great companion for any type media storage. USB makes it versatile, and FireWire lets it achieve speeds fast enough to handle digital video capture and storage.

— Zack Stern

rating	
\$330, APS Tech www.apstech.com 800-395-5871	
	Fast enough for DV, USB and FireWire options
	Full-sized drive not easily mobile

500MHz iMac

Blue Dalmatian Races Ahead of the Pack

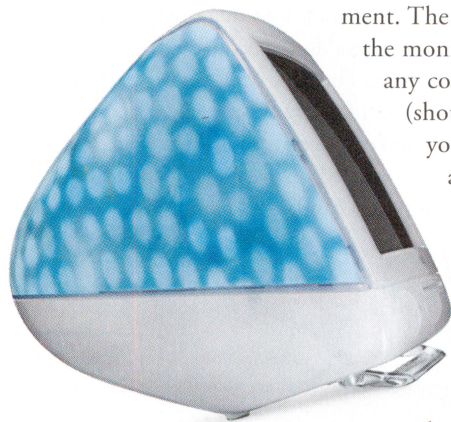
Apple has revised its consumer products, and the new iMacs sport subtle improvements that make them suitable for almost any situation. With the addition of a CD-RW drive and speedier processors on top of the line's previous features, like video mirroring and AirPort support, these iMacs belong on any desk.

The only thing stopping you from having a great gaming, business, education, or media rig out of the box is limited RAM; add some more for a complete Mac.

Three retail configurations are available. The differences between the three are processor speeds (400MHz, 500MHz, 600MHz), hard drive space (10GB, 20GB, 40GB), and CD-RW bundling (the bottom model can't burn CDs). I tested the mid-range machine. The 500MHz iMac is a capable balance of features and value.

By Zack Stern

We had some intra-office disagreements over which color is the best. Offered in Indigo, Flower Power, and Blue Dalmatian, you should look at the computer in person before choosing because print and TV ads don't quite get them right. Our Blue Dalmatian unit is lighter than expected, but it is still a smooth fashion statement. The front of the case around the monitor is white, which limits any computing distraction (should you be worried that you'd spend all day just admiring the design).



The iMacs still include a full complement of ports. Two USB ports let you connect printers, game controllers, keyboards, and mice. Two FireWire ports are ready for faster devices like hard drives and video cameras. An AirPort slot (ready for installation of a \$99 card) and Ethernet port handle networking. Use the internal 56K modem for a dial-up

connection. And unlike all other current Macs, the iMacs still include sound-out *and* sound-in jacks — stereo speakers and a microphone work without extra connections if you don't need the expansion. All of these ports let your Mac interface with almost any device.

The quick 500MHz Mac powers any current application with authority. Media tools like iMovie and games move rapidly, as do windows and screen redraws. You won't feel like you have to wait for this computer to catch up to your actions.

The biggest feature of this new iMac is its CD-RW drive. Now you can burn music in iTunes and make data CDs from within the Finder (see the sidebar Double Feature) If you need to archive data or share it between computers, a burned CD makes the process easy.

An ATI Rage 128 Ultra video chip drives the monitor. Because of this chip, the iMac is a competent games and graphics machine. Frame-rates and screen redraws are as good as almost any other Mac. Also, 16MB of video RAM gives an extra nudge of performance to games because it stores textures as they're rendered.

The video chip can also drive another monitor, mirroring what's on the iMac's screen. If an iMac is needed for presentations, an LCD projector or other large screen will give the big picture.

Many software titles are bundled with the iMac to get started out of the

rating ★★★★★

500MHz iMac
\$1,200, Apple Computer, Inc.
www.apple.com
800-692-7753

Includes CD-RW drive, useful software bundle, speedy performance, video mirroring

Too little RAM preinstalled

box. AppleWorks, iMovie, iTunes, Cro-Mag Rally, Quicken Deluxe 2001, and others cover many areas of productivity and entertainment. You'll need to add few other applications.

This iMac has only one downfall, and it's easy to correct; it only comes with 64MB RAM. When you need more RAM to run several applications at once, and Mac OS X requires 128MB, it's too bad that this machine only includes 64MB. But RAM is cheap; another 128MB should cost about \$60. And RAM installation is performed just by opening a trapdoor, and pushing the chip in.

The Final Decision This iMac comes in interesting colors and packs features that prove that it's not just a fad. A useful software bundle, CD-RW drive, quick processor, and varied ports make this a machine that will work in any situation. After adding more RAM, the 500MHz iMac will do almost everything that a G4 can. **MH**

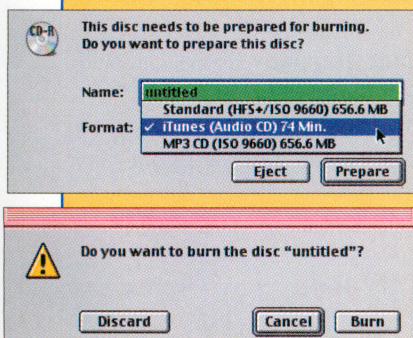
Double Feature

Video mirroring presents the screen on the iMac and on an external monitor or projector. To set up this procedure, first power down the computer, place the iMac monitor-side down on a towel, and pop the oval plastic off the back of the iMac with a thin screwdriver. Then replace that plastic with the included oval that has an opening for the external connection. Plug another monitor or projector into the jack, and turn on the iMac. Both screens should now show the same image.

Burning a CD is a quick process with Disc Burner, Apple's CD-creation utility. First insert a blank CD-R or CD-RW.

Name the CD; you can't rename it on the desktop, so pick a moniker now. Select the type of disc from the pop-up menu; choose between options for MP3 CDs, iTunes audio CDs, and data CDs. After the disc appears on the desktop,

you can drag files to it as if it were a hard disk. When you have everything situated, drag the CD icon to the trash or select Burn CD from the Special menu. Click Burn, and give the computer a few minutes to make the disc. The iMac's drive runs at 8X4X32X, so it won't be a long wait.



Power Macintosh G4 Cube

Are you easily distracted by bright and shiny objects? If so, be warned: Apple's Power Mac G4 Cube is arguably the best-looking computer on the market today. It may take you a while to look away from its translucent, sleek design to focus on the work at hand. Though the Cube is small (8 x 8 x 10"), and therefore demands little desktop real estate, it's mighty. With 128MB of memory, a G4 450MHz processor, a 20GB hard drive, two USB and FireWire ports, Ethernet, and a 56K modem, you'll soon appreciate this machine's brains as much as its beauty. You'll have the speed, connectivity and space to get the most from this Mac.

The most welcome addition to the new Cube is its slot-loading CD-RW drive. You can save important data to a CD, and in conjunction with iTunes, you can burn custom audio CDs. Unlike the annoying buzz of some computers, the Cube's no-fan cooling design keeps it virtually silent, which means no distractions when you cue up Beethoven's *9th*. Of course, the visually pleasing, small, round Harman Kardon speakers that ship with the Cube don't quite translate into aural pleasure. If you want sound that matches Apple's wonderful desktop innovation, you'll tire of these mediocre, shallow-sounding speakers and eventually search for replacements.

The Cube also comes preinstalled with other goodies, such as iMovie 2 and several Pangea Software games, like Nanosaur and Cro-Mag Rally. And the Cube packs enough video power to play these games with authority.

The Final Decision Apple went ahead and made this version of the Cube better than its predecessor — with a CD-RW drive — for less money. It's quick at 450MHz. And it's connected with all of Apple's standard ports like USB, FireWire, Ethernet, an AirPort slot, and a modem. So don't let its small size fool you. But if sound matters to you, shop around for a new set of speakers to complement this small super-computer.

— Carolyn Blackburn



rating

\$1,599, Apple Computer, Inc.
www.apple.com
800-692-7753

 Easy on the eyes, powerful, slot-loading CD-RW drive

 Speakers could pack a bit more punch

Starry Night Pro

Ever wonder what the stars look like 20,000 light years away? Starry Night Pro will take you there, showing you over 19 million stars and 70 million galaxies along the way. The depth of information presented in an easy-to-navigate manner makes this a great package for serious stargazers and astronomers.

When you install Starry Night Pro, it guides you through locating your home by longitude and latitude (there's a Lookup available for those of us who don't memorize that information along with our telephone numbers) so it can display the sky right over your head. View Location lets you stargaze from any point in the universe.

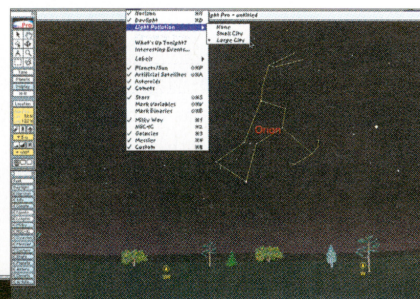
Starry Night Pro is complex, but not complicated. The simple Find command locates celestial objects. Within the main screen, as you pass the cursor over an object, a window pops up to display its

name and location.

The word for Starry Night Pro is "organized." Well, there are a couple other words, too



— "gorgeous" and "addicting" — but it's the tools that make this program stand out. Print star charts, build a database of observations, get updates from the Internet to track comets, satellites, and falling space stations. Collect striking images of faraway galaxies to make QuickTime movies or save them on your hard drive.



The Final Decision

Anyone who knows a little bit about astronomy but wants to know more will enjoy

the universe of information wrapped inside Starry Night Pro's easy interface and stunning images. For serious stargazers, educators, and students, Starry Night Pro's set of features comes at a bargain price.

— Sandy Brundage

rating



\$130, SPACE Software
www.starrynight.com
416-410-0259

Easy interface, massive collection of celestial images, versatile

None

DSP-300 Headset

The DSP-300 is a USB headset from Plantronics that's suitable for audio-philes, game fanatics, and speech recognition aficionados. Without requiring a headphone jack, the light headset delivers crisp, digitally enhanced sound and includes several convenient features, such as the inline volume and microphone mute buttons. That quality comes with a high price compared to other similar headsets, however, and the light weight of the headset unfortunately contributes to a flimsy feel overall.

Noise canceling proved effective with in an office filled with clacking keyboards and squealing traffic outside. But the foam earpieces didn't quite cover my



ears, which, although it let me hear my boss talking, also kept me from being able to completely block out external noise — a distraction while blasting through Deus Ex.

The microphone boom is adjustable, and holds its position once set. It also folds back against the headset when voice recognition isn't being used. However, there's a loop of wire connecting the boom to the earpiece, and it's easy to snag it with fingers or earrings when you reach up to adjust the headset.

Having control buttons on the cord is convenient if you need to walk around with the headset on, which you can do pretty easily thanks to the long length of cable. Clipping the controls to your shirt keeps them within reach.

The DSP-300 is bundled with Per-sono audio control software. The program provides an easy-to-configure interface for using the headphones with

everything from ICQ to QuickTime applications. It also includes six preset equalizers for different musical genres, like classical or jazz. The settings aren't just for show; Bauhaus' "Gotham," one of 10 MP3s included with the software, sounded much richer when I switched the equalizer from classical to rock.

The Final Decision Sharp sound and effective noise canceling makes this headset good for listening to music, playing games, or using voice commands, despite the cost and flimsy feel.

— Sandy Brundage

rating



\$110, Plantronics
www.plantronics.com/digital
800-544-4660

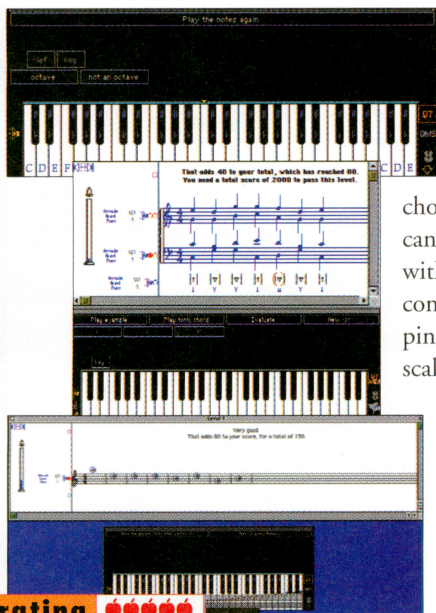
Lightweight headset, crisp sound, good noise canceling, no headphone jack required

Pricy, foam earpieces uncomfortable, flimsy feel

Practica Musica 4

Practica Musica, Latin for “practical exercises in music,” is a wonderful music-theory teaching program. I took music theory back in high school, and had a ball revisiting concepts like note and pitch reading that I’d lost touch with over the years. Based on sight reading and ear training, the program takes you from fundamentals — such as the staff and its clefs, sharps, and flats — to understanding chord progressions and melody.

Upon introduction to the countless lessons, you’ll find that



rating ★★★★★

\$125, Ars Nova Software
800-445-4866
www.ars-nova.com

you can study piano, guitar, or violin. Most exercises ask you to name or play a certain note, interval,

chord, or rhythm. You can use a MIDI keyboard with this program or the computer’s keyboard in a pinch. Trying to play scales with speed is a little frustrating if you’re using the latter option, because your fingers will be cramped for space and you won’t have access to a full range of notes.

As you progress, an on-screen thermometer tracks your progress; when you’ve finished a level, you’re rewarded with a Herbert von Karajan-sized ovation. Beginners are urged to use the enclosed textbook, which is an excellent resource to accompany lessons.

To stretch your musicianship even further, the Ars Nova Website has additional activities to download. Each is labeled with one of three skill levels — Beginner, Intermediate, or Advanced — with topics that range from constructing melodies to interval ear training. Even better, you can listen to every music example given in the textbook.

If you want to hear music with better-informed ears, Practica Musica 4 is a patient, fun teacher that should be on your desktop. With its consistent feedback, expandability, and association between how notes look and sound, you’ll be an amateur musician in no time.

— Carolyn Blackburn

KidSpeak 10-in-1 Language Learning

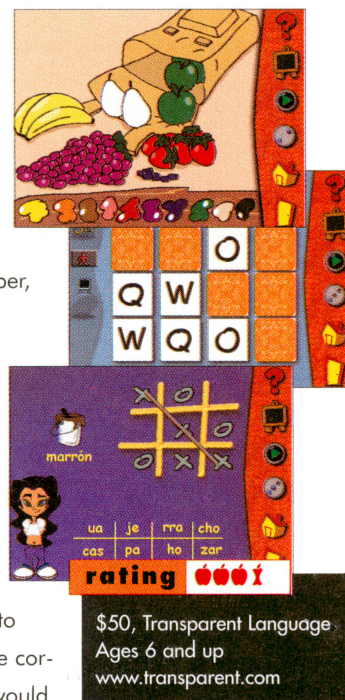
If children’s minds are sponges when it comes to comprehending new languages, your young ones may very well learn the basics of 10 languages with KidSpeak 10-in-1. An animated character hosts each language, including Learn Spanish with Pepa or Learn Italian with Fiore. Other languages covered are Indonesian, Hebrew, Chinese, Korean, French, Portuguese, Japanese, and German.

For each language there are five activities, including alphabet, number, and time-telling lessons. There’s a great connect the dots exercise. For example, if Pepa says “quince ocho,” kids must connect 15 to 8. The game’s modulus operandi is not to detract for mistakes, but to allow for guesses until the correct one is chosen. This would be a great feature if the target audience were younger, but older kids will grow frustrated with the monotonous barking of tasks at hand.

Some of the activities are tough and kids will have to use the help function and reference section. At times, English translations are nonexistent. In a game that features school supplies, the picture of a pen (“la penna”) is apparent, but what is “il quaderno,” a test, a pamphlet?

The title comes with additional games and activities in PDF format. One activity allows kids to print out puzzles to cut, color, and place back together. This title provides a great introduction to languages of the world, but its frustrations, such as the dearth of translations, and its simple graphics, might not keep today’s kids interested for long.

— Carolyn Blackburn



rating ★★★★★
\$50, Transparent Language
Ages 6 and up
www.transparent.com

The Little Prince

Though a beautifully animated version of the story, *The Little Prince*, this title unfortunately strays from the book's engaging atmosphere. Told by Kenneth Branagh, Antoine de Saint-Exupéry's classic tale is truly delightful. Marvelous voice acting and lush 3-D graphics ensure that kids will long remember the little prince, baobabs, and Asteroid B-612. But you can't say the same for this title's activities, which range from aggravating to repetitive.

The main event for kids, other than reading the story, is to tame the fox. Once this is accomplished, they'll receive a gift — a secret diary and personalized stationery. But to achieve this will prove quite frustrating. Every time the day changes from night to morning, kids are encouraged to visit the fox by clicking on the earth. The problem is twofold: The earth might not pass by (and there's no way to find it or speed up

the fly-by) before day switches back to night, and there's no telling how many times the fox must be greeted in order to tame him. (I gave up after nine tries.)

The main screen is a mini universe; planets and stars swirl around, keeping rhythm with wonderful music.

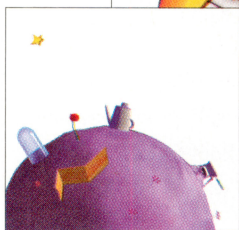
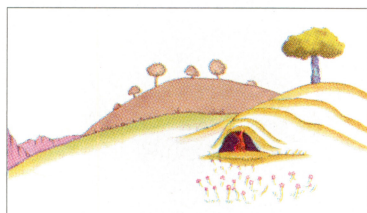
Although most kids will enjoy the characters — a click on one

planet prompts the lamplighter to say hello, a click on another prompts the king

to instruct players to water the rose on Asteroid B-612 — they'll eventually tire of their unchanging greetings.

Even though it looks wonderful, it's too bad that this title's activities don't take advantage of *The Little Prince* universe. Design problems that lead to endless blind clicking, and a lack of guidance about how to navigate the interface may push kids away even as the story draws them in.

— Carolyn Blackburn



rating 🍏🍏🍏

\$20, Tivola
Ages 8 and up
www.tivola.com

KidPix Deluxe 3

Trust that you've got a mini Michelangelo on your hands if your child can't get enough of KidPix Deluxe 3. The center of the main screen is a blank canvas upon which to splash pictures, cartoons, explosions... you name it. There are so many artistic tools that it could masquerade as an adult's graphics program, but the interface is so intuitive and fun that kids can dive right in.

Draw on a blank page with

tools like chalk, pencil, or crayon, or on backgrounds like a park or a map of Europe. Stamps — stars, for instance — can be

scattered across the page. A few more clicks, and a bunny hops across the bottom. Mess up? Select the firecracker icon and watch the page blow up.

The only problem with this program is its saved picture

retrieval. I couldn't figure out where pictures were stored on the computer. Unfortunately, kids can't go

back to pictures they were working

on from the main screen. They must move the cursor to the top of the black frame around the main screen until it changes into a triangle — when it does, they can click the mouse and choose Open from the File menu to retrieve previously saved pictures.

One small setback aside, this is a program that's fun enough, and powerful enough, that you might fight your kids for the next turn. The interface, wide range of tools, and animation options make KidPix Deluxe 3 a no-mess way to flex those artistic muscles for hours on end.

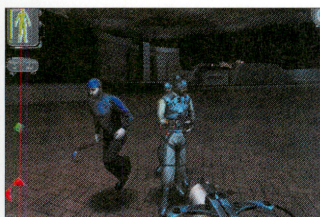
— Carolyn Blackburn



rating 🍏🍏🍏
\$30, Broderbund
Ages 4 and up
800-395-0277
www.broderbund.com

Get Your Game On

Grab a Few Friends and Computers to Network Game



Sure you've beaten Deus Ex, Unreal Tournament, and even Scrabble, or other games, but you're not done playing yet. Nearly every current game has some — or significant — multiplayer aspect. If you're already

connected to the Internet, you can get online and play against other people without additional setup. But if you want to get together with friends for a bring-your-own-computer evening of competition, learn what is needed to set up a network and get gaming. For this explanation, we're using Deus Ex as an example, but these steps are similar for any game.

Update the Games

Computer games are notorious for needing patches and updates. However, this cycle can be beneficial because each update typically enhances the experience. Before you take apart your current Internet settings, visit the game companies' Websites and get the latest versions of your games. For Deus Ex, the multiplayer option was added with a patch; without the latest update, you can't play on a network.

Start with Hardware

Network gaming requires some hardware. If you're playing one-on-one with just two computers, an Ethernet crossover cable (\$10) is what you need. Just plug it into each computer. Or if you want to build a network with several Macs, pick up an Ethernet hub (\$40-80). Each computer will need an Ethernet patch cable (\$10), to connect to the hub.

If each computer has an AirPort card, game wirelessly. For best results, use an AirPort Base Station, although you can get away without this piece of hardware with the software base station option in the AirPort control panel.

What You'll Need

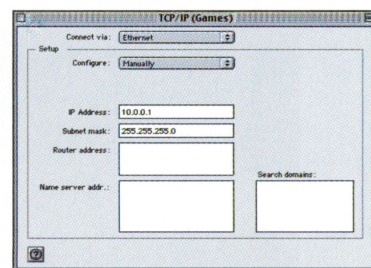
1. An original copy of each game for each player
2. Ethernet cables for each computer (or AirPort cards)
3. A hub to connect everything (or an AirPort Base Station)



Configure the Network Software

Some old games work over AppleTalk, but most recent games use TCP/IP networking. Hedge your bet by turning both on.

Open the Chooser, and click the radio button for AppleTalk to be active. In the AppleTalk control panel, select your networking method from the pull-down menu; pick between Ethernet and AirPort. Open the TCP/IP control panel, select Ethernet or AirPort from the Connect via menu, and pick Manually from the Configure menu. Type 192.168.1.1 for the IP Address, and for each subsequent computer, increase the last number by one (like 192.168.1.2). Add 255.255.255.0 for the subnet mask on all computers. Leave the other settings blank. Close the control panel, and your network should be activated.



Launch and Gather

Fire up Deus Ex or another networkable game on each computer. One computer will host the game and the other will join. The host computer handles more work than the others,

with some games requiring it to keep track of all the positions of players and objects in the virtual world. Because it'll be more taxed, make the host computer the fastest machine with the most RAM available.



On the host machine, click Multiplayer. Then select LAN Game, and click Host. Configure the rules in the following screen, then click Start Game. On the other computers, pick Multiplayer, highlight the game, then click Join. Each client computer will connect to the host for the competition. **MH**

Riddle of the Sphinx

The historical research behind Riddle of the Sphinx and its regal soundtrack work with thought-provoking puzzles to make a game that will keep you tomb raiding for hours. Irritating navigation makes it harder than it should be, but doesn't kill the fun.

Installation was quick. However, the game froze, sending me in search of a patch. Download the update at

rating ★★★★★

Dreamcatcher Interactive
\$20
<http://www.dreamcatchergames.com/>

<http://www.dreamcatchergames.com/>.
Navigation aside, the game shines with its compelling storyline. You're the only (living) character around, but well-written, realistic journals and notes left by an

archaeological team ease the isolation. Puzzles involve deciphering hieroglyphics and drive the story forward. One puzzle, however, requires holding down the mouse button for minutes on end, while nothing much changes onscreen.

You'll think you're on the wrong track. But just settle back for a catnap and keep that button down through the excessive wait.

The graphics don't allow true 360-degree motion, forcing you to turn at right angles or do a complete about-face. Trying to reach one tantalizing trunk in the corner becomes a chore as you turn, lose sight of it, turn back, find yourself way beyond it, and so on. It's also distracting that the game is played in the first-person perspective but you never see hands or feet, even when reaching out to pull a lever.

Despite the clumsy navigation, Riddle of the Sphinx's historical grace notes, well-designed puzzles and immersive story make it a game for anyone who envied Indiana Jones the adventure, but not the boulders.

— Sandy Brundage

Cheat Sheet

Rogue Spear (see the review in the March 2001 issue) offers detailed action in a realistic setting; if your team gets ambushed, you'll probably not complete the mission. Because of this realism, Rogue Spear can get tough.

Get back at those Rogue Spear villains with these cheats. To activate one of them, press Return to bring up the communication window and type any of these codes.

teamgod — Team God Mode
avatargod — Avatar God Mode
stumpy — Stumpy Mode
nobrainer — Brain Usage
explore — No Victory Conditions
5fingerdiscount —
Refill Inventory
bignoggin —
Big Head Mode
meganoggin —
Mega Head Mode
clodhopper —
Clodhopper Mode
1-900 — Deep Breathing
debugkeys — Debug
Keys Activated
silentbutdeadly — Fart Mode
monocle - Monocle Mode
clodhopper - Clodhopper Mode
turnpunchkick — Side Scroller Mode
theshadowknows — Invisible Mode
teamshadow — Team Invisible Mode
wound — Get Wounded
death — Suicide



Simon the Sorcerer II

Some of you may have already met Simon in the first *Simon the Sorcerer* game. In this sequel, he returns as a sharp-tongued adolescent. At the beginning of the game, he is transported via wardrobe back into the dimension of goblins and swamlings — the same place he escaped in the first game — by the evil wizard Sordid.

Like Dorothy in *The Wizard of Oz*, Simon's objective is to get back home. In order to do so, he needs Mucusade, a potion that will recharge the wardrobe and transport him back to the real world. As in any good adventure, there's heaps to explore and a bunch of fun to be had. But be warned: Simon's humor is often crude and not appropriate for young kids, in particular. (Trust me, you don't want Junior repeating some of these lewd comments

to classmates.)

The scenes — like a pet store, fountain, or dock — are often visually crowded and overly colorful, but they're simple to navigate. To direct Simon

to look at something, click on the magnifying glass; to direct him to pick up something, click on the

magnet. Unfortunately the instructions were unclear, so it took a while to figure out how to save the game. Learn from my misfortune; use the hammer icon on Simon's postcard, the only item Simon has when you start the game — it allows for saving and loading.

Full of clever puzzles and great voice acting, even if you disagree with some the words uttered, this game will have you cheering for Simon. Mucusade isn't quite the same as Dorothy's ruby slipper-clicking, but you'll get a kick out of helping Simon get back home.

— Carolyn Blackburn



rating 

Epic Interactive
\$20
www.mac-o-rama.com
877-622-6659

Shogo: Mobile Armor Division (MAD)

Shogo: MAD packs

heat where it counts in a first person shooter; there's lots of action. The pacing, however, is a disappointment because you'll find few breaks in this frenetic style. While the lack of low points (and as a result, high points) is frustrating, Shogo's action is still fun.

As a futuristic police officer, you'll take to the streets with and without the aid of a giant, walking robot. When protected inside the steel hull, you'll be able to sustain more damage than without it, and the view from above buildings adds to the commanding style of the game.

This introduction to Shogo sets up a quirky game; as in many anime cartoons, Shogo blares a theme song with oddly-translated English choruses and Japanese lyrics. The off-beat story and dialog carries this upbeat mood through the game.

The graphics work well, balancing speed and quality. Shogo runs well on middleweight (like iMac and original G3) systems, and it still looks good even if other games surpass Shogo's graphic quality. Initially, Shogo exhibited problems modeling objects, but a small patch from www.macgamefiles.com fixed the issue.

The most disappointing aspect of Shogo is its repetition. While the story is engaging, the game runs at full speed the entire time, tiring out gamers. The pacing is all about shooting enemy robots; you won't have much opportunity to engage characters or expand your role in the story.

If you don't mind — or if you want — a game that rushes headlong into action, Shogo will entertain. Its quality visuals and amusing tone will propel gamers ahead. Just remember that Shogo isn't concerned with pacing; if you need a break from the gameplay, go outside.

—Zack Stern



rating 

Titan Computer
\$40
www.mac-o-rama.com

Sharing Files

Connecting Two Macs with Mac OS 9

iMacs are great family machines because they come with a complete set of features in a round case. So it's little wonder that many households want to connect more than one to share files.

Make the Connection

The first task is to physically connect both computers. You'll need to purchase an Ethernet crossover cable (\$10) at your local computer store to construct a makeshift network. (With more than two computers, you'll need an Ethernet hub for about \$50-\$140 and standard Ethernet cables at about \$10 each.) Simply plug one end of the cable into the Ethernet port of one Macintosh, and then route it to the Ethernet port of the other Macintosh.

By Chris McVeigh

Sharing Setup

Once you're wired, you'll need to set up the Mac OS for sharing. Open the File Sharing control panel, and click on the Start/Stop tab at the top. The first section of the window allows you to set network identity preferences. Input your Owner Name (usually your first and last name), Password (something memorable), and the Computer Name (whatever it is that you might like to call your computer). It is possible some of these values may be in place if you used Mac OS Setup Assistant when you first unboxed your Macintosh. You're not stuck with your original entries, however. Feel free to make changes to these items as you wish.

The next task is to initiate file sharing. The second section of the File Sharing control panel notes your current file sharing status. At the moment, it most likely says File Sharing off. Simply click the Start button to get things rolling. It may take a few minutes for file sharing to begin, so be patient. Once the button changes to Stop, close the File Sharing control panel and go back to the Finder. Security isn't likely to be an issue in a small home network, and under normal circumstances, you'll want to share your entire hard drive. To do this, click once on

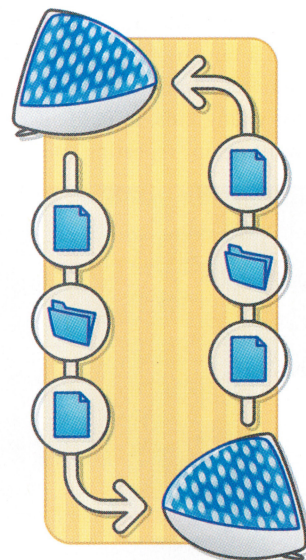
your hard drive icon, and select Get Info: Sharing... from the File menu. All you need to do now is check-off the option to Share this item and its contents, and close the window. Once you've finished up, complete the same procedure on the other Macintosh, giving it a unique Owner Name, Password and Computer Name.

Logging In

To access the other Macintosh, select Chooser from the Apple Menu and click on the AppleTalk icon. The name of the second computer should immediately appear to the right (if it does not, open the AppleTalk control panel on both Macs and ensure Ethernet is selected). Double-click on the computer name to access the login window. Enter the other computer's Owner Name and password exactly as you first entered it (including proper capitalization), and click Connect. Another window will appear asking you to select the volume you want to access. Highlight the item listed (the other computer's hard drive) and click OK. In a few seconds, the hard drive of the other Macintosh will appear on your desktop. You can now move files to it just as easily as you move files around your own computer!

Next Month:

File Sharing under Mac OS X! **MH**



Connect the Dots

How Sound Is Digitized

Digital audio has become a ubiquitous part of our modern lives. Whether it's from our car stereo, the local cinema, or even cable television, chances are the audio we're hearing has been digitized. Discover how this process works.

Measuring a Wave

Strumming a guitar vibrates its strings, causing the surrounding air molecules to compress and expand in time with the vibrations. This creates a sound wave that travels through the air. When the sound wave strikes a microphone, it causes the microphone's thin diaphragm to vibrate. The diaphragm vibrations in turn cause an attached metal coil to move within a magnetic field, which creates an electrical current pulsing in time with the original vibrations. This current then travels to the computer.

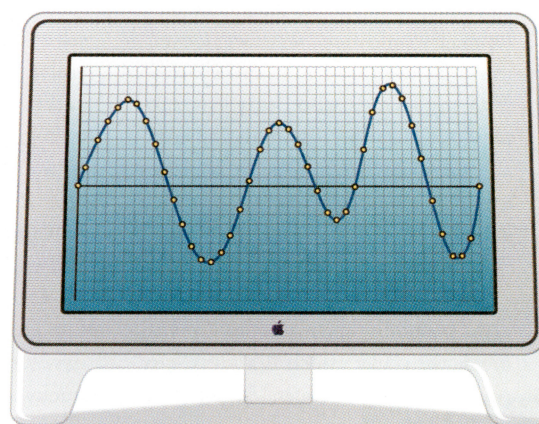
The computer records the meandering shape of the sound wave as a series of points. Think of it as plotting a graph — along the X-axis, we have a set of values called the wavelength's frequency, and along the Y-axis, we have another set of values representing the wavelength's amplitude.

By Chris McVeigh

The sample rate determines the number of points (samples) recorded per second. So, for a 22 kHz sound, 22,050 equally spaced points along the wavelength are measured and noted each second. The greater the sample rate, the more detailed the recording, better noting subtle fluctuations in frequency.

The bit rate determines the degree of detail of the wavelength's amplitude. For an 8 bit sound, there are 256 possible values for the wavelength's height at each sample point. A greater bit rate will give a more accurate recording with more precise, subtle fluctuations in amplitude.

A sound wave has an infinite amount of detail. You will discover more subtle nuances as you examine it closer. This amount of information poses a dilemma for audiophiles seeking to reproduce a sound with ultimate clarity. A digital file will grow with the amount of detail retained from the original sound wave. Many scientists contend that CD-quality audio (44 kHz, 16 bit, stereo sound) represents the upper



limit of sound detail the average person can appreciate. CD-quality audio contains 44,100 measurements per second, with 65,536 possible amplitude values for each measurement, in two distinct channels.

Shrinking the Package

The raw size of a standard, four minute CD track is approximately 40MB. Even today, 40MB is a lot of data to shuttle around. It's no surprise, then, that digital sound engineers have worked hard at developing compression schemes to significantly reduce the size of audio files. One such compression scheme is MPEG Layer-3, also known simply as MP3. The compressor uses a set of algorithms to analyze digital audio for repeating or redundant components. For example, the slope of the sound wave may vary little across 30 sample points. In this case, the slope can be noted with a simple equation rather than 30 individual points. The compressor can also reduce the amount of information that represents a small block of audio. Instead of noting the block with 512 bits of information, the compressor might approximate its value with just 128 bits. The caveat, of course, is that this reduction may negatively impact the fidelity of the audio. **MH**

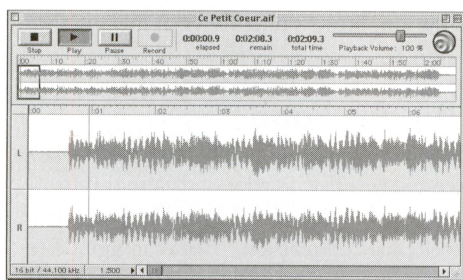
Ink Cartridge Refills, Upgrade or iMac, and Burn Audio CDs

Q Before the dawn of the digital age, I recorded some original tunes using an analog multi-track cassette deck and mixed them down to two-track stereo master cassette tapes. I would like to preserve my music in digital format and share it with my friends who don't listen to cassettes anymore. Is there a cheap and easy way to transfer these songs into my Macintosh and then burn an audio CD?

— Steve Williams

A Actually, recording audio with your Macintosh is a fairly easy process. You'll need to grab a few items first: a cable with RCA jacks at one end (to plug into your stereo) and a

By Chris McVeigh



stereo mini-jack at the other end, and a short-to-long prong stereo adapter to plug the cable into your Macintosh. Both items should be readily available at your local Radio Shack. You'll also need some recording software. I recommend using Felt Tip Software's Sound Studio, a \$35 shareware application that can be downloaded at www.felttip.com. Once you've connected the cables to your Macintosh,

expand the Control Strip and locate the module with the microphone icon. Click once on the icon and select Sound In from the pop-up menu. Now launch Sound Studio, select New from the File menu, ensure you're recording at 44kHz/16 bits, and click OK. Press the record button to begin recording, and press play on your cassette deck. Once the song has been digitized, you can delete any unwanted noise from the beginning and ending of the file. Then save the file as an AIFF (Audio Interchange File Format), and use Apple's iTunes (www.apple.com/itunes) to burn the tracks to a CD. You can even use iTunes to convert the track to MP3, and email it to friends!

Q I would like to save a movie trailer from Internet Explorer 5, and view it later with QuickTime Player. Is this possible?

— Jim Kammerer

A In order to save movie trailers within Internet Explorer 5, you'll need to unlock several extra features of QuickTime. That means purchasing the QuickTime Pro upgrade from Apple for \$30 (www.apple.com/quicktime). This process gives you a registration code to enter into your QuickTime control panel, which unlocks the full version of QuickTime. Aside from the ability to save movies from within your Web browser (a pull-down menu appears at the far right of the movie control bar), QuickTime Pro offers an expanded



edition of QuickTime Player that permits simple editing, exporting, and recompression of movie files. And you'll have to pay only once — after QuickTime 5.0 is rolled out (perhaps by this issue's release), your registration code will unlock its extra features as well. (Technically, there is a way to save movie files without the upgrade. It's not for the uninitiated, however. See "You Ask, We Answer" in *MacHome* February 2001 for details.)

Q I recently installed Norton Utilities and ran Disk Doctor on my iMac DV. It fixed some minor problems but said it couldn't fix a major problem, reporting that "These files have damaged resource forks. (15,1,2)... Macintosh HD:System Folder:Preferences:File Exchange Preferences." How do I fix the problem? I wasn't aware of anything wrong with my Macintosh, so is it really a "major" problem?

— Bill Seaver

A There's a simple answer to your question, Bill. All you need to do is toss the File Exchange Preferences (the real file, not the alias made by Norton Utilities) into the Trash and reboot your Macin-

tosh. The File Exchange Preferences will be rebuilt when the computer starts up, and all will be well. Norton Utilities can be a bit alarmist. A file corruption is not a serious problem unless it impacts the performance of your Macintosh or leads to lost data. Unfortunately, there's no easy way for Norton Utilities to tell what is important to you or the functioning of your computer. All it can determine is that there is something seriously wrong with the file. (I actually had a similar problem with my File Exchange Preferences. The file size ballooned to 400MB, and Norton Utilities correctly identified the file as corrupt. Tossing it out solved the problem.)

Q I've seen ads in magazines for ink refill kits to rejuvenate printer cartridges. Are these a good alternative to new cartridges? I bought one a few years ago and had very poor results. Ink leaked everywhere. Are the recent products any better?

— Robert E. Brown

A Although ink refills are a good way to save a few dollars, you must exercise caution when using them. They can be extremely messy, and in worse case scenarios, improperly filled cartridges may damage your printer. Most printer manufacturers sternly discourage the use of ink refills and warn they may cause damage not covered by your warranty. It's a bit of gamble, then. If your printer is out-of-warranty, you might try experimenting with refills. Otherwise, I'd advise you to pay a few extra bucks for genuine ink cartridges and a little peace of mind.

Q I'm wondering whether or not I should install a processor upgrade card in my Performa 6360, or simply go for a new iMac. What's the difference in price, and do you have any recommendations?

— Jerry Magner

A Sonnet Technologies (www.sonnettech.com) sells several upgrades for the Performa 6360 that install into the computer's Level 2 cache slot. Prices start at \$200 for a 300MHz G3 with 512K cache — significantly faster than the Performa's 160MHz 603e. It's a great way to boost the performance of your current computer and extend its life span. There are caveats, however. Processor upgrades tend to have compatibility problems with newer hardware and software. You might be extending the life of



the Performa, but you won't be extending its functionality. A low-end iMac, now \$799, offers several important technologies you cannot add to the Performa, such as USB, FireWire, AirPort capabilities, and the ability to upgrade to Mac OS X. It's certainly more expensive than the processor upgrade, but I'd argue it's a much wiser investment.

Q I was wondering where you found the icons for the Power Macintosh G4 and iBook in the March 2001 "Tips & Tricks" column. They are in a screen shot in the FireWire Disk Mode tip.

— C. F. Wagoner

A The icons are from a package called Sketchcons 2, by Cory Marion. You can find this collection at The Icon Factory (www.iconfactory.com). The colorful icons include iMacs, the Power Macintosh G4, the G4 Cube, iBooks, and PowerBooks. They're Mac OS X compatible and look simply stunning at high resolutions. **MH**

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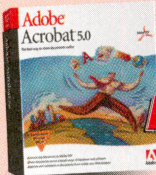
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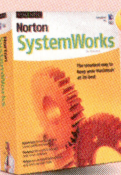
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FREE RAM	128MB
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Hard Drive	20GB
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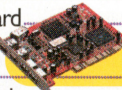
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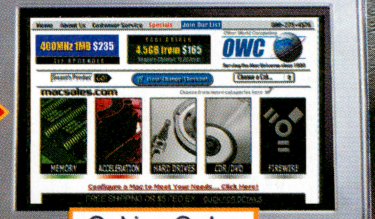
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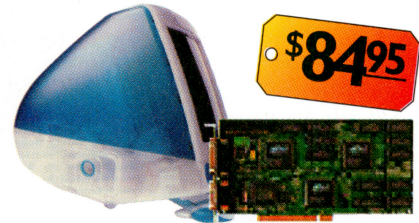
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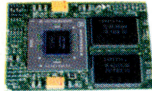
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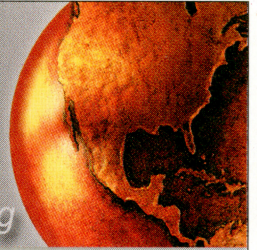
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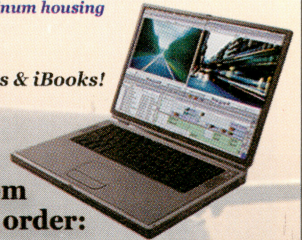
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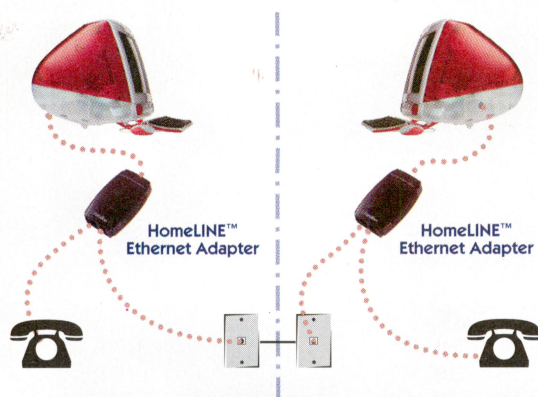
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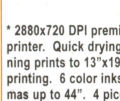


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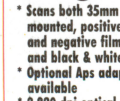
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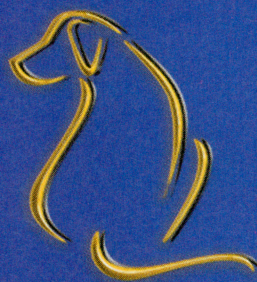
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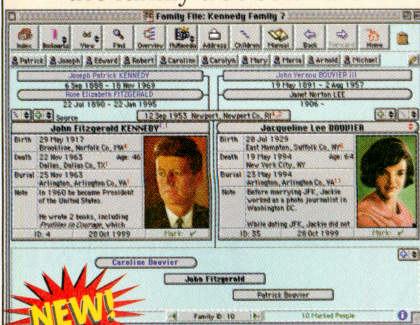


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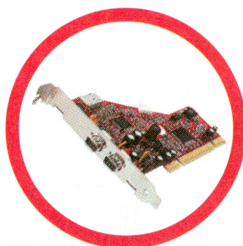


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Keep Your RAM Happy, Force Quit Applications, and Charm the Dock

Docking Controls

Sure you know that the Dock is a place to store frequently used items, be they documents, applications, or URLs. And you can adjust its size and settings in the Apple Menu under Dock: Dock Preferences. But there are still more tips to uncover about this tool.

Drop a folder into the Dock, and hold down the mouse button or control-click on its icon. A pop-up menu of its contents lets you select anything within that folder. Try putting your hard disk icon in the Dock to browse the whole volume.

By Zack Stern

The Dock offers several visual clues to what's going on with your computer. If a dock item is bouncing, then it's launching. Open applications feature a black triangle below their icons. When mousing over an icon, its name pops up.

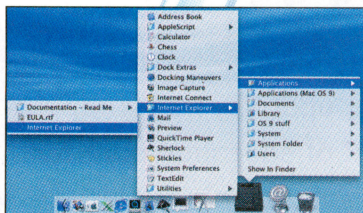
Try some keyboard commands to control the Dock. Command-Option-D toggles between showing and hiding the Dock. And to skip between open applications, hold Command and tap Tab (or Shift-Tab) to bring a new application to the front window.

Manage RAM

Mac OS X handles RAM and system resources better than previous operating systems. Mac OS 9 forced you to issue allocations of RAM to each application, and its virtual memory was limited to another user-controlled setting. Instead, Mac OS X assigns RAM and virtual memory settings on its own. This can be a great feature; why should you have to know more about arcane settings than the computer? However, if you keep opening applications, your system can slow down because it may have to juggle too many tasks.

Keep your number of open applications at a level similar to Mac OS 9. If you could only open five at a time, try to stay at about that size. There's no hard rule, but if you do notice your system becoming abnormally slow, quit applications that aren't being used to save resources.

Classic can horde RAM and system resources, too. If you've



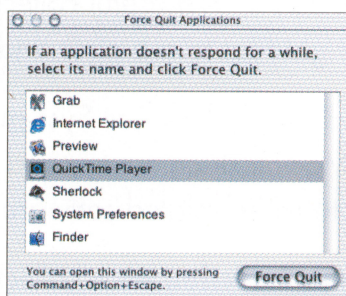
quit Classic applications and don't plan to launch any more, quit Classic, too. In the Classic System Preference, click the Stop button in the Start/Stop tab. Classic is the most taxing part of Mac OS X; keep checking with your software manufacturers for Mac OS X versions of applications.

I Quit

If an application freezes, force quit it. When you can't save and quit from a menu, force-quit is a last resort. However, you won't be able to save current work in the misbehaving application. In Mac OS 9, force-quitting was isolated from many users, but

Mac OS X brings the function to everyone.

To initiate a force-quit if an application seems stuck, select Force Quit from the Apple Menu, or press Command-Option-Escape. Select the application that hasn't responded, then click the Force Quit button. If the Finder is

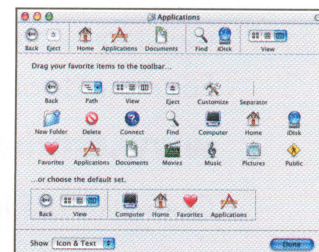


frozen, try relaunching it from the same screen. In Mac OS X, after a force-quit, you'll have to relaunch the application that you quit, but you won't have to restart any other programs.

Toolbar Tricks

Mac OS X's Toolbar gives direct access to many folders and settings, and you can personalize it, too. Drag an item into the Toolbar to create a button. Or to access the full features of the Toolbar, select Customize Toolbar from the View menu.

In this window, drag any of the new tools and folders into the Toolbar to make an alteration. Add a Path menu that shows the hierarchy of folders, a Documents button, or an Eject button. Add direct access to an iDisk or the Connect option. Organize it all with separators, and click Done to finish the job. **MH**



If this is Norton™...



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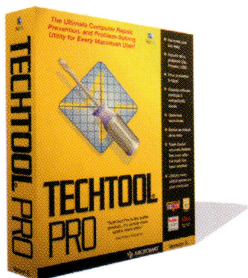
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